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Lifestyle
Olympic glory at Lake Placid in New York A3

Sports
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Wilmington
Town Crier

71ST YEAR NO. 44 PHONE 978-658-2346 OCTOBER 30, 2025 www.HomeNewsHere.com 22 PAGES

Monster Mash Halloween Bash!

Everyone had a spooktacular time at Wilmington Public Library's Monster Mash Halloween Bash! "Thank you to all the families who joined us for a fun-filled evening of games, crafts, treats and other Halloween festivities. The costume contest was a hit and we loved seeing everyone show off their creative looks during the costume walk! We can't wait to celebrate with you again next Halloween!" the library said.

(Courtesy photos)

Second annual Sing for St. Jude event in Lowell

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

LOWELL — On Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, local artists will come together to perform at the second annual Sing for St. Jude event, to be held at the Taffeta Music Hall in Lowell.

This is a fundraiser event to benefit the St. Jude Children Research Hospital, and is hosted by the local charity Fitness for a Cure.

Fitness for a Cure is a charitable performance team that has been serving the Merrimack Valley area for 26 years, raising over 9.7 million dollars to benefit the children of St. Jude Children Research Hospital.

The Sing for St. Jude event in Lowell is put together by local Fitness for a Cure members Katie McCauley and Stephen Sarrouf, and features four local artists performing in a mini musical festival atmosphere.

Tewksbury resident Katie McCauley not only is helping to organize this event, but will also be performing.

McCauley started her music career in her basement while performing on a karaoke machine, and today her performing and writing skills have brought her success in the music

SING | PAGE A2W

Resident may attempt to call for special Town Meeting regarding the Hero Act

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Select Board convened recently for their Oct. 27 meeting. All members were in attendance; however, Kevin Caira was present through Zoom while he recovers from knee surgery.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for longtime Wilmington resident George Hooper Sr. Hooper had a long history of serving the community, including as a member of the Select Board itself.

The board also further discussed plans for a Town Meeting on Nov. 20. A memorandum from Town Manager Eric Slagle was heard explaining its associated costs and agenda.

Slagle estimated the cost of the Town Meeting to be between $6,000-$7,000, the majority of which will go towards audio visual equipment and staffing for the event.

Two articles will be brought to a vote at the planned meeting.

Article 1 will be a vote on whether or not to veto the Select Board's decision to demolish the former Buzzell Senior Center. However, the town manager explained that

MEETING | PAGE A8W

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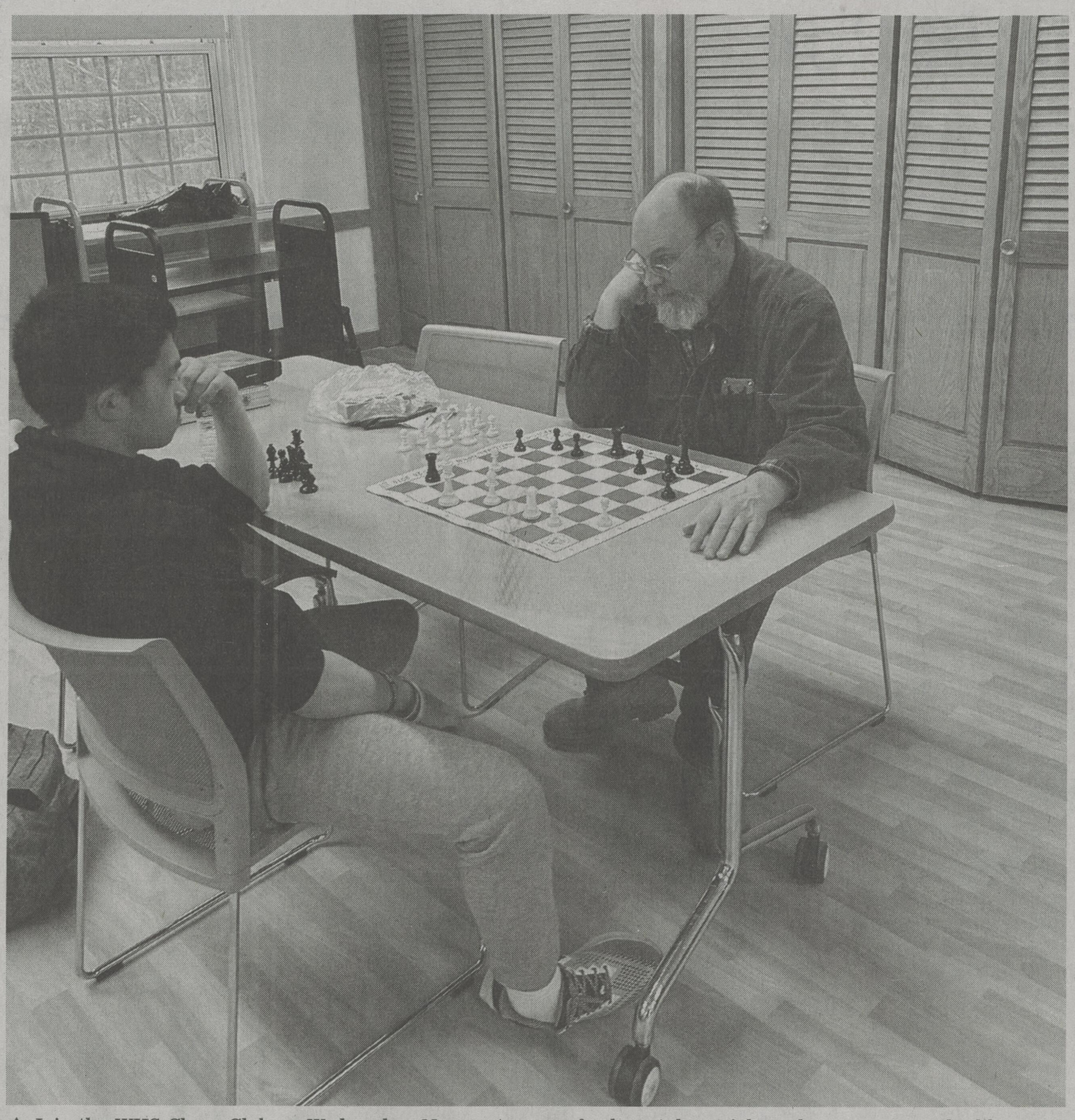
INDEX Home Imp.... C1 | Lifestyle... A3, C6 | Middlesex East... B1 | Obituaries... A5 | Opinion... A4 | Police Logs... B4 | Sports... B5W

Wilmington Library News:

Join the WHS Chess Club for low stakes, pickup games Nov. 5



▲ Join the WHS Chess Club on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. for low stakes, pickup chess games at the library! All skills levels are welcome. (Courtesy photo)

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help
Tuesday, November 4, 2pm
Wednesday, November 5, 2pm
Thursday, November 6, 2pm
Saturday, November 8, 2pm
Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Learn to Cross Stitch
Monday, November 3, 6-8pm
New to needlework? Head of Circulation Lisa will teach you the basics to start your first project! Materials and pattern will be provided.

Needleworkers at Night
Monday, November 3, 6-8pm
These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in.

Slice & Dice — A Pizza and Table Top Game Night
Tuesday, November 4, 6-8pm
Join Librarians Mary and Marie for Slice & Dice, our monthly pizza and table top game night for adults. Each month, we'll kick off with a featured game, followed by open play where you can explore our game library or bring your own favorites to share with the group!

FAFSA's Been Filed — Now What?
Tuesday, November 4, 6pm
In this workshop led by independent college advisor Tom O'Hare, attendees will review how application results factor into eligibility and decisions that schools make when awarding tuition assistance.

Pints + Pages
Thursday, November 6, 7pm
The group meets on the first Thursday of every other month. The book discussion will be hosted by librarians from the Wilmington and Tewksbury Public Libraries. This month's book: Sisters in the Wind by Angeline Boulley.

Needleworkers
Friday, November 7, 10am-12pm
This is a social group for those who do any kind of needle craft. Bring your knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. and enjoy conversation and camaraderie. Drop-in.

Worlds Within Words
Saturday, November 8, 3pm
Do you like your books to take you to fantastic, unlikely, and even terrible places? Sometimes all three? Then the Wilmington Memorial Library invites you to our newest book club Worlds Within Words! Featured Book: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams.

Youth Programs

Wilmington Community Playgroup
Monday, November 3, 10am
Join Community Teamwork Family Resource Network for a community playgroup where we'll work on Early Literacy skills and much, much more! Ask CTI about any resources they can help provide for you and your family. Ages 0-6, siblings welcome

Preschool Storytime
Tuesday, November 4, 10am
Join us at our Preschool Storytime! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 3-6

DnD 101 for Teens
Tuesday, November 4, 6pm
New players who wish to join our regular library campaign (or who just want to learn about the world's most popular role-playing game) should attend our 101 sessions, held monthly. Grades 6-12;

Time for Twos
Wednesday, November 5, 10am
Time for Twos includes books, rhymes, music and movement for children aged 2! Age 2

Drop-In Chess
Wednesday, November 5, 3pm
Join the WHS Chess Club for low stakes, pickup chess games at the library! All skills levels are welcome. All ages (recommended for grade 6 & up)

Family Craft Night: Leaf Ornaments
Wednesday, November 5, 6:30pm
Complete a craft together with your family! Decorate wooden leaf ornaments with book pages, pipe cleaners, and glitter (oh my)! Ages 3+

Baby Time
Thursday, November 6, 10am
Join us at our Baby Time! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 0-23 months

Playful Pathways: Teddy Bear Tea Party
Friday, November 7, 11am
During our Life Skills/ Home Unit, let's have some fun with dramatic play! Bring your dolls or stuffed animals and work together to set the table and pour the tea (juice). We'll even eat delicious treats and enjoy the company of new friends at this fun tea party for little ones! Ages 0-5

LEGO Building
Friday, November 7, 3:45pm
Build with LEGOs at the same time as other LEGO fans and display what you make in the library! Grades K-5

Additional Information

New Assisted Listening System
The Wilmington Memorial Library is pleased to announce that an assisted listening system is now available for events held in the Stewart Room. The system can be used in three different ways. For patrons without hearing aids or cochlear implants, there are headphones. For patrons with aids or implants that have a T-Coil, there are neck loops. For patrons who have paired their aids or implants with their phone, there's an app, WaveCast. Please contact the library (or technology librarians) for more information.

Save the Date!
Mark your calendars for an evening with author and local sportscaster Michael Holley, on May 14! A Boston sports journalist, author and broadcaster, Michael Holley hosts shows on NBC Sports Boston and 98.5 The Sports Hub, while teaching at Boston University. A former Boston Globe journalist, he's also appeared on ESPN and Peacock. There will be a cash bar, book sales & autograph signing. This is a free event, open to all.

Check Out Our Library of Things
Did you know Wilmington Memorial Library circulates more than just books? Check out our Adult, Teen and Youth Library of Things for fun and useful items to take home. Items include: hotspots, a karaoke machine, a metal detector, board games, a food dehydrator, a crochet kit and much more! See what's available at *https://wilmlibrary.org/lot/*.

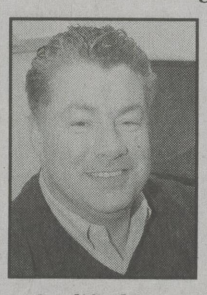
Book Store Next Door
Regular hours are back at The Book Store Next Door! The bookstore is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am-4pm.

Museum Passes
The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting *www.wilmlibrary.org/services/mp*.

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming
Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at *www.wilmlibrary.org* or by calling (978) 658-2967.

Advertisement

It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois



FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE ABLE ACT:

PART IV

Qualified disability expenses (QDE) are expenses made for the benefit of the designated beneficiary and related to their disability, including, but not limited to:

- Education;
- Housing;
- Transportation;
- Employment training and support;
- Assistive technology and related services;
- Health;
- Prevention and wellness;
- Financial management and administrative services;
- Legal fees;
- Expenses for ABLE account oversight and monitoring;
- Funeral and burial; and,
- Basic living expenses.

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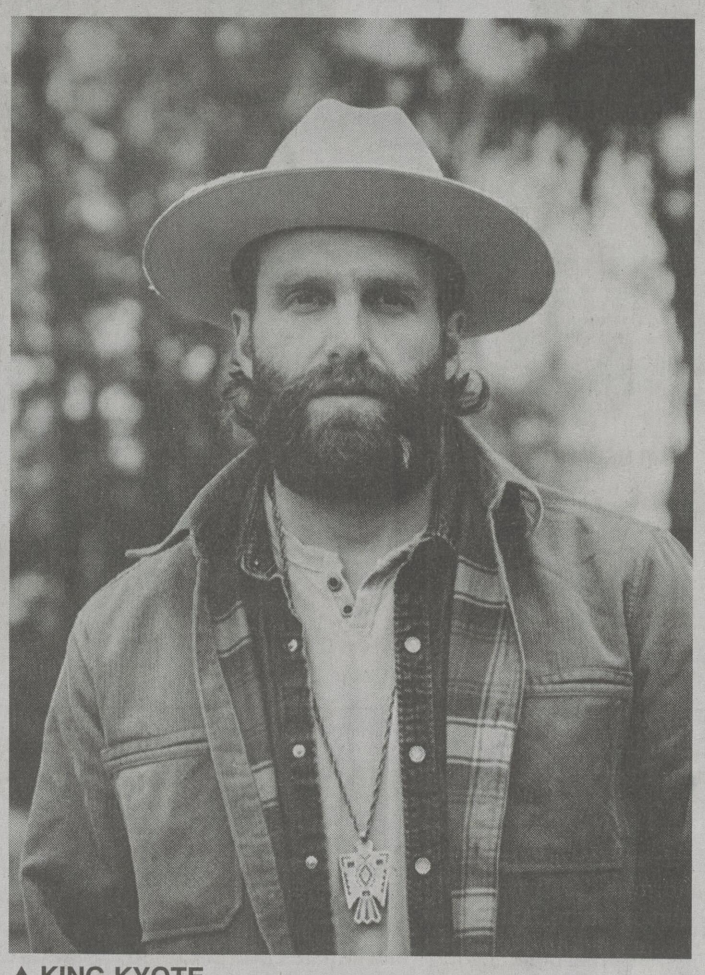


▲ KING KYOTE

Sing event to help Fitness for a Cure fundraise

SING FROM PAGE A1W

business.

While working at SLS Fitness, McCauley found her passion for philanthropy and joined the New England based charity Fitness for a Cure, which ultimately led to organizing and performing in the "Sing for St. Jude" event.

The Nov. 8 event will feature the musical talents of Zane Christopher, King Kyote, Katie McCauley, and Muerdermart.

Organizers of this event are excited to give these local artists the opportunity to give back while showcasing their talent in a festival style show.

Audience members will be able to enjoy an evening of great local talent while helping to win the fight to end childhood cancer.

This event is for those 18 years and up, and the Taffata Music Hall is located at 110 Western Ave. in Lowell.

The show begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

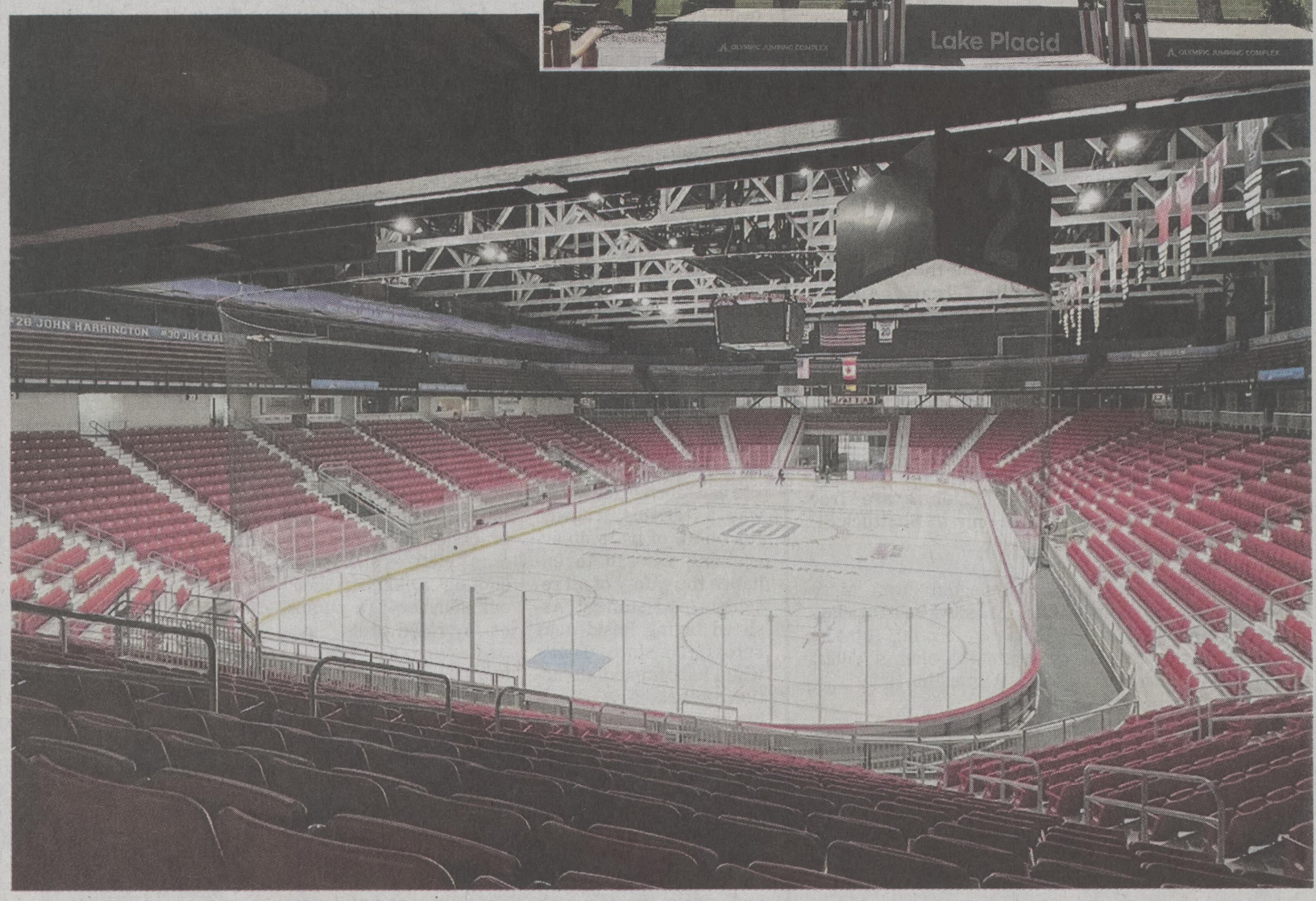
Those interested in supporting this charity may also want to mark your calendar for Fitness for a Cure's 27th annual major fundraising event coming up on Saturday, March 21, 2026. This event will take place at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium and features a family-friendly, fun daytime event as well as an evening gala event.

For more information on the Fitness for a Cure charitable organization and their upcoming March 2026 fundraising event, visit *www.slsfitness.com/fitness-for-a-cure*.

To purchase tickets to the Sing for St. Jude November 8th event, visit *www.taffetamusic.com*.

Lifestyle

OLYMPIC GLORY AT LAKE PLACID IN NEW YORK



▲ At top, the Olympic Jumping Complex towers over the region; a gondola takes visitors to the top for breathtaking views.

▲ Above, the Olympic Center is home to the rink where the Miracle on Ice game was played at the 1980 Olympics; the rink is still used for games today. (Rosalyn Impink photos)

By ROSALYN IMPINK
News Correspondent

If you're getting excited for the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics in February, it's a good time to plan a trip to our nearest Olympic site — Lake Placid, New York. Just a half a day's drive through the beautiful Adirondack Mountains, Lake Placid is an easy getaway to get up close and personal with athletic history.

Lake Placid is one of only six US cities that have hosted either the summer or winter Olympics. The village welcomed the world to Upstate New York at the 1932 Winter Olympics — only the third time the winter games were held — and again for the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Several Olympic venues have been redeveloped as "legacy" sites by New York State, offering an opportunity for their reuse as both recreational resources and elite training facilities.

The Olympic Center is located in downtown Lake Placid, making it an ideal location to start exploring the area's place in history. The complex is home to two ice rinks: one from the 1932 Olympics and one where the 1980 Miracle on Ice game between the United States and Soviet Union was played.

Hockey games are regularly hosted on the rinks, giving visitors an opportunity to relive the magic of the legendary games.

Inside the center, the Olympic Museum is small but jam-packed with information. Interactive activities invite visitors to experience a bobsled run, try to keep a speedskater's pace, and wave from atop the medal podium. Galleries explore the art, mascots, and athlete fashion of the games, as well as the development of early sports of the winter games.

A collection of Olympic medals and torches trace the history of the games, giving visitors a close-up look at how design has evolved. Another section is dedicated to the 1980 games, diving into each individual sport and highlighting American achievement.

Just outside of town, the Olympic Ski Jumping Complex is visible from across the area. The 90- and 120-meter jumps tower over the rolling hills — you'll have to crane your neck to snag a picture. Visitors can take a gondola to the top for spectacular views.

Ski jumpers practice on the slopes year round; in the summer months, they land in a 750,000 gallon pool rather than snow.

Whiteface Mountain, the fifth highest mountain in New York State, hosted alpine skiing for the Olympics. Today, it's a popular destination for skiers of all levels.

Prefer to hit the road rather than the slopes? Whiteface Veterans' Memorial Highway winds its way up the mountain to its summit. The five mile toll road leads visitors to 360-degree views of the Adirondacks with views stretching to Vermont and Canada.

In the summer, hikers can enjoy dozens of miles of trails.

Mt Van Hoevenberg rounds out the Olympic legacy sites. Bobsled, luge, cross-country skiing, and biathlon competitions were held here, and much of the impressive infrastructure — namely the winding ice tracks — remain intact and continue to be used by the US bobsled, skeleton, and luge teams.

Time your visit right and you just might catch a glimpse of Olympic hopefuls practicing push starts on the indoor track slope at the redeveloped mountain lodge.

Before the Olympic flame is lit in Italy next year, visit the site of some of the most storied victories in American sports history at Lake Placid.

III Olympic Winter Games
Lake Placid, USA
February 4-13, 1932
XIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES LAKE PLACID 1980
SITE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

▲ Held nearly 50 years apart, the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics both left their mark on Lake Placid. (Rosalyn Impink photo)

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OPINION

Upcoming local events

October 31, Halloween-Tewksbury Trick or Treat from 6 - 8 p.m.

November 1, Strongwater Farm Veterans Resource Fair, 500 Livingston St. 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about services for Veterans and their families. Reister at *https://shorturl.at/JUbvh*.

November 5, Tewksbury Veterans Breakfast, 10 a.m. at the Tewksbury Senior Center. Please call to make a reservation as seats are limited. 978-640-4485 Veterans Services.

November 7, Wilmington Sons and Daughters of Italy evening of Dancing thru the Decades, Knights of Columbus Hall, 112 Middlesex Ave., 7 - 11 p.m. BYO munchies. Coffee and desserts will be provided. For more info, contact Janet Engrem at *jknje@comcast.net* or 617.957.2460.

November 8, Texas Hold 'Em at TJ Callahan's to support VFW Post 8164 scholarship and Patriot's Pen Essay. 1 p.m. Capped at 50 players. $100 each includes buffet lunch.

November 8, Improv Night, Friends of Tewksbury Library, 7:30 p.m., Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks, $25 to support library programming. Cash bar, raffles, outside snacks allowed. Get your ticket at *friendstplibrary.org*.

Until December 15 – Coat Drive, Tewksbury Health Department, lower level. New or clean, gently used coats will be collected.

Public Health Museum, **Thursdays and Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 365 East St. on the campus of Tewksbury Hospital. *Publichealthmuseum.org*

Book Store Next Door, **Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults $3, seniors and youth age 3-12 $2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, **Mondays and Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62), Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, **Saturdays and Sundays**, noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

Gov. Healey announces next steps to enhance resident safety in assisted living residences

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey released the results of a Fire and Life Safety survey of all 272 Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) in Massachusetts and announced additional action to enhance the safety of residents at ALRs across the state.

In July, following the tragic fire at Gabriel House in Fall River, Governor Healey announced immediate measures to strengthen fire and life safety in Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) across Massachusetts, including requiring all 272 ALRs in the state to complete a Fire and Life Safety Self-Assessment Survey and submit their site-specific Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plans. The survey received a 100 percent response rate.

"The Gabriel House fire was a terrible tragedy. It's on all of us to do everything we can to enhance the safety of all residents and staff at Assisted Living Residences across the state. That's why I took immediate action after the fire, including requiring this survey which will help ALRs and local fire departments identify and address areas of improvement," said Governor Healey. "We appreciate all of the ALRs for their responsiveness and will continue to work with them and local fire officials to improve emergency preparedness and give residents, families and staff the peace of mind they deserve."

The findings, reviewed by the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) in collaboration with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), highlight key areas of focus related to building age and additional best practice safety features. It is important to note that ALRs are residential buildings and are not subject to the same building and fire codes as nursing homes or hospitals.

The vast majority of residences reported strong preparedness measures, and about 13 percent (36 residences) indicated opportunities to further strengthen their approach to fire drills, mutual aid plans, or emergency coordination protocols. These responses provide a roadmap for additional targeted support and technical assistance, and corrective action where needed.

Certain ALRs operate in older buildings that may not have undergone recent major renovation, and 69 percent (189 residences) self-identified at least one area of opportunity to align with best practices for fire or building safety — such as installing a kitchen hood extinguisher, fire pumps, or fire-rated walls. Since ALRs are not licensed health facilities, these building features are recommended but not required. These opportunities for improvement do not indicate that buildings are currently unsafe or out of compliance with building codes but rather point to areas where municipalities and operators can work together to enhance resident protection.

Based on these results, AGE and EOPSS are launching a joint effort to strengthen fire safety compliance and municipal coordination. EOPSS will distribute survey results to all local fire departments — the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) — who are responsible for enforcing the State Fire Code. These results will inform the local fire departments of the 189 ALRs that self-identified opportunities to enhance best practice fire safety features so that they can continue to work together to enhance safety.

To further strengthen accountability, AGE will introduce a new Compliance Verification Form requiring ALRs to secure annual sign-off from their municipal fire department. These forms will be kept on file at each ALR and reviewed by AGE during initial certification and recertification visits, ensuring stronger coordination between municipalities and the state.

For the 36 ALRs that self-reported they may benefit from additional work on preparedness measures (e.g., completing fire drills, updating mutual aid plans, or strengthening emergency coordination policies), AGE will request submission of a Corrective Action Plan within 45 days. These ALRs will also receive a targeted review of their training logs, drill performance, and emergency preparedness protocols during compliance reviews to ensure corrective measures are in place and staff are adequately prepared.

"Resident safety is our top priority, and the 100 percent response rate reflects the seriousness with which the assisted living operators are approaching this issue," said Aging & Independence Secretary Robin Lipson. "By combining heightened awareness by the ALRs with stronger oversight, corrective actions, and clearer communication with municipalities, we are ensuring that risks are identified and addressed quickly."

"Local fire departments and building officials are on the front lines of ensuring compliance with Massachusetts' life safety codes," said Interim Public Safety and Security Secretary Susan W. Terrey. "This coordinated approach makes sure municipalities have the information they need, and that older residences with reported concerns receive timely and thorough follow-up."

"The safety of seniors who reside in assisted living residences is the top priority for all state and local public officials in the Commonwealth," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "The tragic fire at the Gabriel House in my district in Fall River was a stark reminder of how we need to update and reequip these facilities that house vulnerable populations. I welcome these survey results and the data obtained, that will strengthen fire and safety protocols, enforce building code compliance, and employ best practices; all measures that will help save lives. I'm thankful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Secretaries at the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and Aging and Independence for responding swiftly to ensure that municipalities have the resources they need to keep our assisted living residences operating at the highest safety level."

This joint effort builds on the Fire and Life Safety Initiative announced by Governor Healey in July and strengthens alignment across state and local partners to reduce inspection gaps and protect older adults across the state.

When you change your clocks, check your alarms

STOW — With the end of Daylight Savings Time just around the corner, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts are reminding residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms when they change their clocks.

"Working smoke and CO alarms are your family's first line of defense against an emergency at home," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "As we 'fall back' this weekend, please take a few minutes to be sure you and your loved ones are protected."

Modern smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have the manufacturing date printed on the back of the device. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and CO alarms should be replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions — usually 5, 7, or 10 years, depending on the make and model.

Fire officials are especially concerned about expiring smoke alarms because of a 2015 update to the State Fire Code. That update, which remains in effect, requires that replacement smoke alarms in most Massachusetts homes have sealed, 10-year batteries. As a result, the first wave of alarms purchased to comply with the update are nearing the end of their useful lifespan.

State Fire Marshal Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts offered these tips for residents who are replacing outdated single-station smoke alarms. Following these guidelines will reduce the risk that someone will remove the batteries and place them in another device or to disable the alarm when it's activated by cooking smoke:

- Choose photoelectric alarms from a well-known, national brand
- Look for the mark of an independent testing lab like UL or Intertek/ETL
- Select alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a "hush" feature"
- Alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th edition or later, use the latest multi-criteria technology to reduce nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke
- If your alarms are less than 10 years old and take alkaline batteries, then put in fresh batteries to be sure you're protected all winter long. And remember to test your smoke and CO alarms once a month to be sure they're working properly.

Heating Season Brings Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, emphasized the importance of working carbon monoxide alarms as we enter the colder months.

"Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of poisoning deaths in the United States, and heating equipment is the main source of carbon monoxide in the home," Chief Purcell said. "We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide. Working CO alarms on every level of your home are the only way to detect this invisible killer."

Massachusetts firefighters encountered carbon monoxide hazards at about 5,000 calls last year, Chief Purcell said.

Create & Practice a Home Escape Plan

"Changes to building construction and furnishings mean we have less time to escape a fire at home than ever before," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "You could have just three minutes to get out safely."

"Working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan are among the most fundamental and important tools for surviving a fire," said Chief Purcell. "Be sure everyone in the home knows what to do and where to go when the alarm sounds, including young children, older adults, and persons with disabilities."

Fire officials recommend planning two ways out of the building, the apartment, and each room if possible. Be sure to select a family meeting spot a safe distance from the building.

Senior SAFE

Adults over 65 are at disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire, especially if they live in one- or two-family homes. Hundreds of fire departments across Massachusetts have grant-funded Senior SAFE programs that may provide assistance with smoke and CO alarms. Seniors who need help installing, testing, or maintaining their alarms should contact their local fire department or senior center for assistance.

For more information on smoke alarms or the Senior SAFE program, visit *www.mass.gov/dfs* or contact your local fire department.

Book Stew Review

'Heart Lamp' by Banu Mushtaq

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This winner of a English PEN award for translation and the 2025 International Booker Prize is a series of stories of Muslim women in India and the frequently painful outcomes of their marriages and their relationships with relatives.

Saving face within the community is the highest priority, and the slightest misstep can send disapproval ratcheting outward, to the ruination of plans and dreams. The ability of men to marry as many as four women causes immense insecurity and jealousy.

The most memorable stories are "Stone Slabs for Shaista Mahal," where the worship by a husband for his beloved wife and mother of his six children terminates surprisingly; "High Heeled Shoe," where a man becomes obsessed with his sister-in-law's new shoes from an Arabian shopping splurge; and "The Arabic Teacher and Gobi Manchuri," which features a scholar who is only motivated by a cauliflower dish.

There is, for an American reader, the cloudy mystery of the culture, the clashes between religion and the prevalent Hindu domination, and the harsh judgments passed against any misstep by the woman, but mostly the reader feels the strain and difficulty of pleasing a partner when almost every choice seems fraught.

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office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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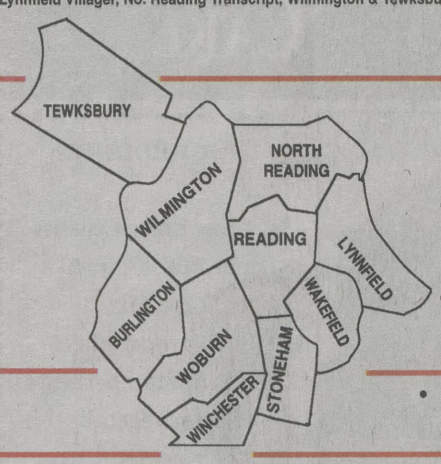
Movie Review: 'Bugonia' Page B2

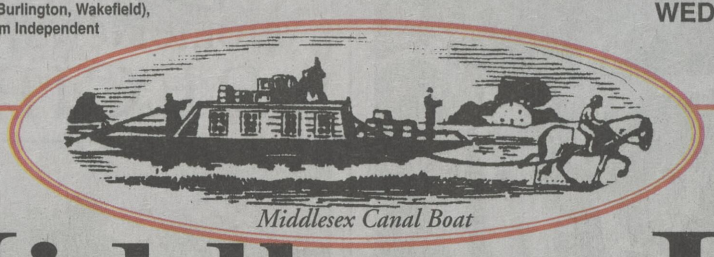
Recipe: Spiderweb Cake Page B2

Real Estate Transfers Page B3

MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times – Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield), Lynnfield Villager, No. Reading Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 30, 2025 B1





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In phenomenon recorded across the state...

Middlesex East region's MCAS scores slow to rebound from pandemic

By PATRICK BLAIS

Wakefield students finally uplifted their MCAS scores back to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels last spring, but all other communities in the Middlesex East's coverage area continue to lag behind testing milestones reached in 2019.

Recognizing the depressing MCAS scoring trend applies to school communities across Massachusetts, representatives from the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) late last month acknowledged that just 13 of the state's 300-plus public school systems have fully rebounded back to pre-pandemic achievement levels for both MCAS math and English Language Arts tests.

Students in another 50 school systems have managed to meet the 2019 performance levels on one of the two core subject examinations.

Releasing the 2025 MCAS results in Arlington, which joins Wakefield in becoming one of the select few communities to restore MCAS results back to pre-pandemic achievement rates, DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez during a press conference last month admitted that Massachusetts' performance on standardized testing now lags behind a number of other states.

He and other state leaders, like Mass. Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler, have argued that student learning suffered significantly while schools were closed or moved into remote learning settings at the start of COVID-19 crisis.

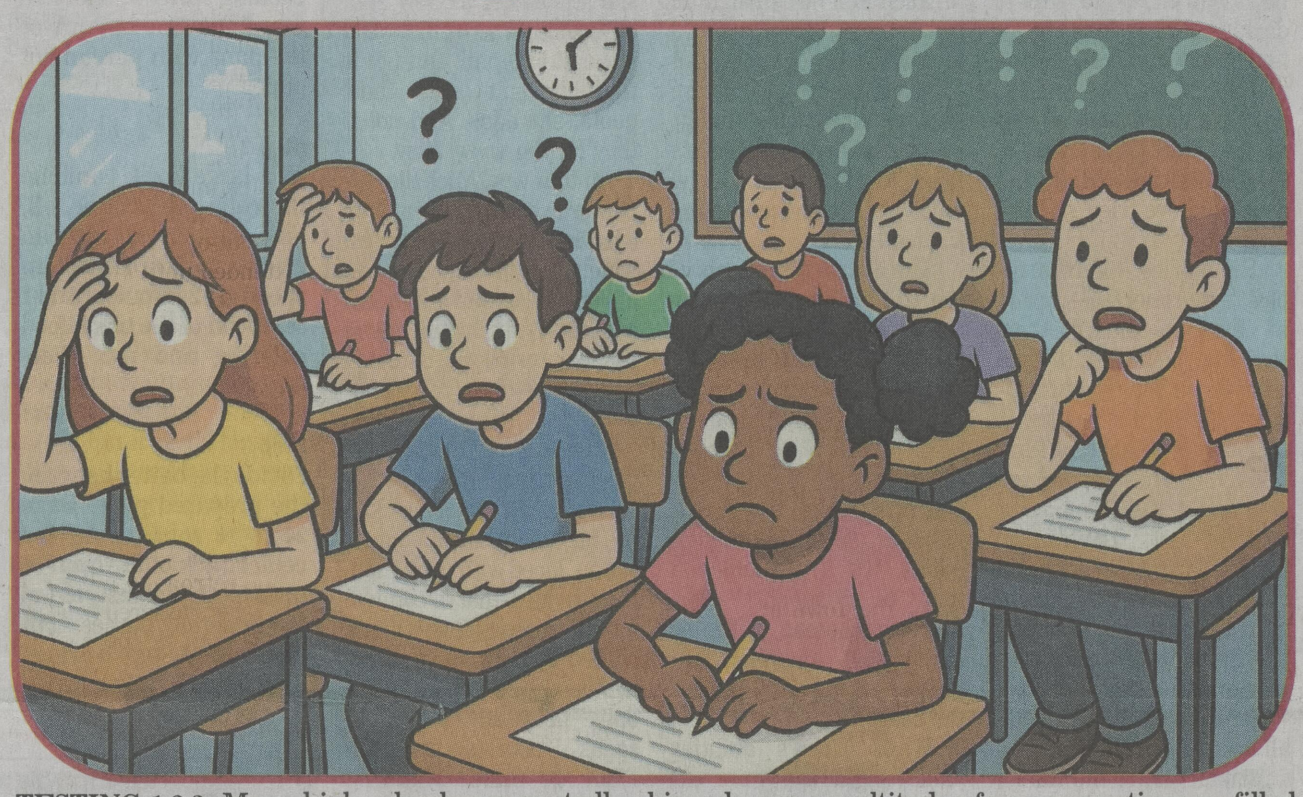
"I have long suggested that recovery from the pandemic will be a process, not an event," Tutwiler told reporters last month.

"Today, we are recognizing 63 districts for returning to pre-pandemic achievement levels in grades 3-8, but next year, I hope that all districts have met this benchmark," Martinez remarked in a prepared statement released just before that press conference. "We want to exceed where we were in 2019, but the first step is to get back to that baseline."

Meanwhile, many local and state education officials are hinting that MCAS tests can no longer serve as an accurate measure of student learning on the high school level, as state voters last fall eliminated the use of those exams as a graduation requirement by passing Question 2 during state elections. In the wake of that voter decision, which became effective immediately, many high schoolers reportedly skipped over a multitude of exam questions or filled in the answer-sheet bubbles in patterns that suggest they didn't care about the test results.

"So these are things that we're going to continue to look at and examine, but there is some evidence to suggest that there was an impact of motivation as it relates to the results from Question 2 back in November," Rob Curtin, DESE's chief data analyst, stated when the 2025 test results were released.

According to the 2025 MCAS English exam results, which are based on tests administered to students last spring, roughly 42 percent of all students in grades 3 through 8 met or exceeded state standards. Though marking a 3 percent jump from 2024 standards, those performance levels are still a staggering 10 percentage points below achievement rates from 2019.



TESTING 1-2-3 Many high schoolers reportedly skipped over a multitude of exam questions or filled in the answer-sheet bubbles in patterns that suggest they didn't care about the test results. Massachusetts' performance on standardized testing now lags behind a number of other states. (Staff Graphic)

Students as may be expected lag further behind in math performance. Some 41 percent of all pupils across the state in grades 3 through 8 met mathematics standards; by contrast back in 2019, just under half of all students met state standards.

Though Wakefield students don't hold the distinction of being the best MCAS performers in the Middlesex East region - that distinction goes to Winchester with Reading achieving the second highest overall achievement rates - students in grades 3 through 8 either matched or slimly exceeded 2019 achievement levels for all three MCAS exams administered last year.

Wakefield students and learners across all other area school districts in the Middlesex East region with the exception of Woburn also exceeded state testing averages for the math, English, and science tests administered to young children last year.

A community breakdown of MCAS testing trends for students in grades 3 through 8 is as follows:

• Burlington - With 53 percent of all students meeting expectations for English tests and 52 percent passing math, Burlington's elementary school students improved

• MCAS TO B2

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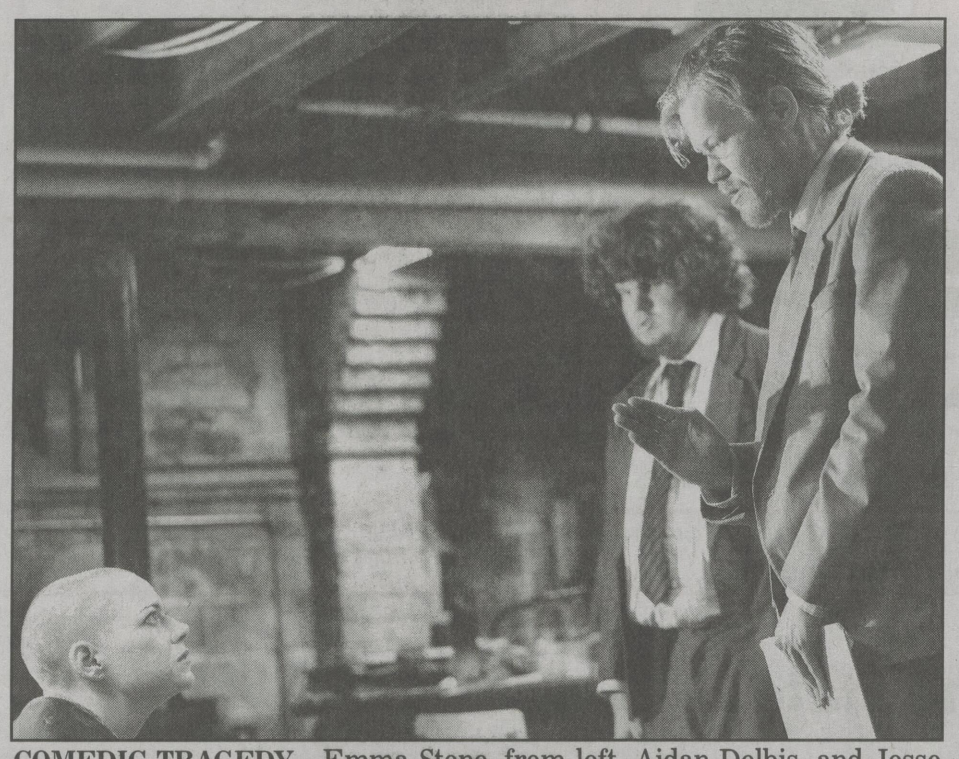

COMEDIC TRAGEDY - Emma Stone, from left, Aidan Delbis, and Jesse Plemons in a scene from "Bugonia" released by Focus Features.
(Atsushi Nishijima/Focus Features via AP)

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

'Bugonia' is a darkly comic gut punch

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

The twisted filmography of Yorgos Lanthimos has by now trained us to expect darkly comic visions of contemporary life, both savage and mundane. His movies have perhaps inspired the most "What?!" reactions of the last decade, partly because they've tried so hard to do so.

His movies — farces, fables, experiments — reside in surreal worlds of their own. But his latest, "Bugonia," is thrillingly, if tragically, tied to our reality. It might even be his best film. Though I've been apprehensive about the flamboyant severity of Lanthimos' movies, I found "Bugonia," a chamber-piece gut punch, hard to shake. For starters, it's difficult to resist any movie with a line in it like: "There's Andromedan code all over your Instagram."

That's one of the things that Teddy (Jesse Plemons), an incel eco-terrorist, says to Michelle (Emma Stone) after kidnapping her with his neurodivergent cousin Donny (newcomer Aidan Delbis) and tying her up in their basement. Teddy and Donny live together in fairly remote, rundown old house. There, Teddy tends to both his bees and to unhinged conspiracy theories.

But as Plemons so deftly plays him, Teddy doesn't seem like a lunatic. He might reach wildly insane conclusions, such as that Michelle, a pharmaceutical company chief executive, is an alien. But he's thoughtful in nature and sweetly cares for his cousin. It's a feat of Plemons' innate good nature that we kind of like Teddy, even as he shaves Michelle's head, to prevent "it," as he calls her, from contacting the mothership.

The opening moments of the script by Will Tracy ("The Menu," episodes of "Succession") cast these demented shenanigans in an apocalyptic light. The fate of bees is much on Teddy's mind; colony collapse disorder, often caused by pesticides, is one of his talking points. It's a phenomenon that, in "Bugonia" — a movie reckoning with, or maybe just lamenting, humanity's fate — isn't just for the bees.

While Stone's abilities alone might legitimize extraterrestrial suspicions, there's more to why Teddy has pinpointed Michelle. She's a lauded corporate leader; her office includes a framed Time magazine with her on the cover and a photograph with Michelle Obama. Her company, Auxolith, operates out of a sleek office building where Michelle presides over her workforce like a queen bee. She has the corporate lingo of "transparency" and "diversity" down pat, but whether she actually adheres to any of those ideals is dubious, at best. Before Teddy and Donny jump her, she announces a "new era" at Auxolith where employees leave at 5:30 p.m. But not if they haven't met their quota, she adds. And not if they're, you know, busy.

In that way, Michelle is a camera-ready cover for whatever Auxolith is up to, which, as the movie goes along, teases out a poisonous history, including opioid manufacturing that affected Teddy's mother (Alicia Silverstone).

The bulk of "Bugonia" is the ideological dialogue between her and Teddy back in the basement. It's a conversation, laced with contemporary divides, that is comical for its impossibility. One is addled by paranoia and extremism, the other knows only heartless corporate speak. Understanding each other is futile. Watching Stone, as Michelle, attempt to reason with Teddy is part of the movie's dark fun, just as is seeing Plemons' Teddy resolutely stick to his certainty that Michelle is part of an alien infiltration of Earth that he wants gone by the next lunar eclipse.

The source of such a wild narrative can only come, of course, from South Korea. "Bugonia" is loosely based on the 2003 Korean film "Save the Green Planet!" All of Lanthimos' most notable films before have been written with either Efthimis Filippou ("Dogtooth," "The Lobster") or Tony McNamara ("Poor Things," "The Favourite"). But, otherwise, "Bugonia" has the feel of a quick follow-up to last year's "Kinds of Kindness," a black-comedy triptych also led by Stone and Plemons.

Yet what could easily be mistaken for a tossed-off, in-between movie — there are only a handful of characters and a few scene locations — ends up feeling like a culmination-slash-nadir for Lanthimos. Having made a dozen films darkly satirizing the sad, primal folly of humankind, it's comeuppance time in "Bugonia."

The movie drags in the middle, when it's locked in a prisoner drama that grows a little tiresome and predictable. But the payoff is immense. Teddy calls his torture chamber "the headquarters of the human resistance." By the time "Bugonia" reaches its unforgettable finale, it's made chillingly clear just how feeble any such movement might be, and the movie's apocalyptic air of resignation, of fait accompli, sounds a chastening death knell.

"Bugonia," a Focus Features release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for bloody violent content including a suicide, grisly images and language. Running time: 118 minutes.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

SPIDERWEB CAKE

WONDERFUL WEB DESSERT - With its moody black frosting and stretchy marshmallow webs, this Spiderweb Cake is sure to bring the spooky vibes. Not only is this cake frighteningly festive, it's also deceptively easy to make. It comes together quickly with Betty Crocker™ devil's food cake mix and chocolate frosting, along with a little black food coloring and a clever marshmallow spiderweb hack.

INGREDIENTS:

Cake
- 1 box Betty Crocker™ Super Moist™ Devil's Food Cake Mix
- 1 cup prepared coffee, room temperature
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon black gel food color, if desired

Frosting & Decoration
- 1 tub (16 oz) Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy Chocolate Frosting
- 2 teaspoons black gel food color
- 1 1/2 cups mini marshmallows
- Plastic spiders, if desired

STEPS

Step 1
Heat oven to 350°F. Grease two 8- or 9-inch round cake pans with cooking spray or shortening. Line the bottom of the pans with parchment paper.

Step 2
In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, coffee, oil, and eggs. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed for 2 minutes. Add 1 teaspoon of the black food coloring and mix thoroughly.

Step 3
Divide the batter between the prepared pans. Bake 24 to 28 minutes on the center rack of the oven or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean and top springs back when lightly touched in the center. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to cooling racks. Cool completely.

Step 4
In a medium bowl, combine the frosting with 2 teaspoons of black gel food color and beat with an electric mixer until smooth and thoroughly blended.

Step 5
Spread a dollop of frosting onto a serving plate and place one of the cake layers on top. Spread 1/4 of the frosting on top of one of the cakes. Top with the second cake. Using an offset spatula or the smooth side of a butter knife, frost the entire cake with the remaining frosting.

Step 6
Put on a pair of clean, disposable kitchen gloves as the marshmallows are very sticky to work with and can be a bit hot. Microwave a small handful of the marshmallows (about 1/3 to 1/2 cup) on High for 10 to 15 seconds or until just beginning to puff. Grab a handful of the microwaved marshmallows and smash between your hands in a slow-motion clapping movement, repeating until you have stretchy strands of marshmallow between your hands. Wrap the strands of marshmallow around the frosted cake. Repeat microwaving and stretching the remaining marshmallows in batches until you have the desired spiderweb effect. You may need to wear a new pair of gloves for each batch of marshmallows. Decorate with plastic spiders, if desired. Remove spiders before serving.

• MCAS FROM B1

testing scores across the board in 2025. Back in 2019, roughly 59 percent of all Burlington students exceeded state testing expectations for MCAS English tests, while 60 percent met expectations for the math exam.

• Winchester - Enjoying the distinction of being the Middlesex East region's highest MCAS performers, 74 percent of all students in the district met expectations for English tests and 71 percent passed math. The 2025 results are a big year-over-year improvement, as the percentage of Grade 3 through 8 students passing English increased by 8 percent while math performance climbed by 3 percent. Back in 2019, 81 percent of all Winchester elementary school pupils met expectations for English exams and 79 percent passed the MCAS mathematics test.

• Reading - Boasting the second highest testing results in the Middlesex East region, 65 percent of all students in Reading met expectations for English and math exams. The 2025 results are a small improvement on 2024 performance levels and most notably bring the community's math scores one percentage point above the 2019 high-water mark. English testing scores are now just three points below pre-pandemic levels.

• Stoneham - With 45 percent of all students meeting expectations for English tests and 43 percent passing math, Stoneham's elementary school students improved year-over-year exam scores across the board in 2025. Back in 2019, roughly 59 percent of all Stoneham students exceeded state testing expectations for MCAS English tests, while 57 percent met expectations for the math exam. 2025 science test scores in Stoneham actually exceeded 2019 trends by two percent points, with 51 percent of all students obtaining a passing grade in the subject exam.

• Woburn - Apparently struggling in efforts recover from the pandemic, the number of young students in the city passing the English MCAS test actually declined year-over-year and continues to hover 20 percentage points below 2019 thresholds. In 2025, some 32 percent of all pupils met or exceeded MCAS English test standards and 35 percent passed in math. By contrast, back in 2019, 52 percent of all elementary school pupils met expectations in English and 46 percent met standards for the math exam. Woburn, unlike many of its neighbors, does have a substantial English Language Learner population (or students which whose native language is not English).

• Wilmington - Like Woburn, Wilmington is also finding it difficult to recover from the pandemic in the subject of math, with the percentage of pupils passing the exam still hovering 20 points below the 67 percent passing rate achieved in 2019. This year, 54 percent of Wilmington students met state standards in MCAS English, leaving the district just 5 points below 2019 achievement levels.

• Tewksbury - With 45 percent of all students meeting expectations for English tests and 41 percent passing math, Tewksbury elementary school students improved math and English testing scores across the board in 2025 by between three to six percentage points. Back in 2019, roughly 62 percent of all Tewksbury students exceeded state testing expectations for MCAS English tests, while 55 percent met expectations for the math exam.

Holiday Craft Fair and Festival of Trees raffle in Lynnfield on Nov. 8

Come to the Holiday Craft Fair and Festival of Trees raffle on Saturday, November 8 from 10 AM to 3 PM at Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA.

Two dozen artisans will feature pottery, original art, handcrafted jewelry, wood crafts, wreaths, place mats, handmade cards, wool mittens, fiber art, decoupage, tile trays, knitted and crocheted items, and much more!

The Centre Church craft group has been busy making ornaments, gnomes, angels, and a variety of other items. In addition, the church will have a vintage jewelry table and a bake table full of delicious treats.

Winners of the Festival of Trees raffle will receive fabulous gifts and decorations from themed Christmas trees.

Free parking is available behind the church.

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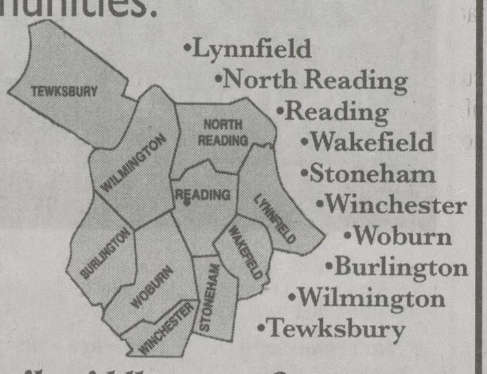

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• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

29 Humboldt Ave was sold to 29 Humboldt Avenue LLC by Diane R Krol RET and Krol, Diane R for $585,000 on 10/09/25

7 Maple St was sold to Anhalt, John by Cottrell Shauntoo Est and Cottrell, Mary for $755,000 on 10/08/25

220 Mill St was sold to Karasik, Igor Y and Karasik, Silva by Murrays Realty Inc for $1,605,000 on 10/06/25

LYNNFIELD

16 Durham Dr was sold to Mao, Lisha by Crawford, Philip B and Crawford, Ellen E for $2,498,000 on 10/09/25

73 Locksley Rd was sold to Ryan, Patrick M and Ryan, Janelle by Marrion, Raymond E and Mclemore, Mary K for $1,000,000 on 10/07/25

465 Main St was sold to Batchelder, Dylan S and Batchelder, Lauren J by Duprey, Erin M for $880,000 on 10/09/25

NORTH READING

100 Marblehead St was sold to 100 Marblehead LLC by Marblehead St LLC for $630,000 on 10/09/25

READING

98 John Carver Rd was sold to Cdg Investments LLC by Christofi Jr, Joseph N for $682,000 on 10/09/25

428 South St was sold to Mcdowell, Molly R and Primo Jr, Vincent A by Wise, Jocelyn A for $805,000 on 10/09/25

34 Torre St was sold to Baker, Alexa and Baker, Patrick by Garland LLC for $1,418,000 on 10/08/25

STONEHAM

22 Crosby St was sold to Webb, Alec and Webb, Giuliana R by Panetta, Anna M for $760,000 on 10/07/25

5 Elmhurst Rd was sold to Equi, Kristina G and Equi, John R by Eccles, Isabelle L and Morley, Lucas B for $855,625 on 10/09/25

2 Eustis St was sold to Grotta, Jill D and Grotta Jr, Salvatore D by Martin, Frederick J and Martin, Deborah D for $880,000 on 10/07/25

2 Florence Cir was sold to Deluise, William J and Deluise, Michelle M by Palm Irt and Pratt, Patricia M for $950,000 on 10/08/25

11 Stevens St was sold to Miller, Paul and Miller, Gabriela V by Deluise, William J and Deluise, Michelle M for $707,000 on 10/08/25

3 Woodland Rd #421 was sold to Hillside Ma Realty LLC by Sbd Rt and Shoap, Lester for $250,000 on 10/09/25

TEWKSBURY

50 Ferncroft Rd was sold to Degois, Daniel F and Degois, Edite by Mcnaught, Jo-Ann M for $692,500 on 10/06/25

945 Main St was sold to Christ Is The Answer Chrc by Stephen S Lu Dmd Inc for $685,000 on 10/09/25

Maryland Rd was sold to O N E Grand Prop LLC by Tewksbury Town Of for $25,000 on 10/07/25

WAKEFIELD

276 Albion St #1 was sold to Vasa, Olti by Hogan, Dennis P for $319,000 on 10/08/25

69 Foundry St #305 was sold to Gresci, Jason by Ribeiro, Leanne E and Ribeiro, Debbie for $515,000 on 10/06/25

3 Hickory Hill Rd #2 was sold to Baum, Jaclyn and Mcbride, Dillon by HB Development Corp for $865,000 on 10/09/25

65 Old Nahant Rd was sold to Holiday, Emily M and Holiday, Jeffery R by Cresta, Anthony for $924,900 on 10/06/25

117 Salem St was sold to Key, Jerry and Key, Maria C by Mcdonald, Barbara E for $730,000 on 10/06/25

WILMINGTON

15 Dewey Ave was sold to Saralkar, Pushkar and Trimbake, Nikita by Fitzler, Annemarie and Fitzler, John M for $789,900 on 10/07/25

203 Lowell St #117 was sold to Martin, Deborah by 203 Lowell St Owner LLC for $635,000 on 10/08/25

14 Presidential Dr was sold to Alt, Stephen R by Gordon, Sean D and Gordon, Aimee B for $815,000 on 10/06/25

WINCHESTER

5 Emerson Ct was sold to Yao, Ying by Wattanasin, Roy and Nian, Qing for $1,185,000 on 10/08/25

115 Washington St #3D was sold to Eads, Janina by Brant C Obrien RET and Obrien, Brant C for $519,000 on 10/08/25

WOBURN

16 Arlington Rd was sold to Arlington And Main LLC by Kane, Kathryn A for $850,000 on 10/08/25

48 Arlington Rd #2 was sold to Durham, Stephen and Durham, Kerry by Christraj, Arvind J for $567,900 on 10/08/25

6 Draper St was sold to 6 Draper Street LLC by Connolly Rt and Canney Jr, John Joseph for $4,150,000 on 10/09/25

Sunday, November 16, at 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 2:15 p.m.)

Regent Theatre presents Memories of The Hits, The 60's and The Beatles with host 'Cha-Chi' Loprete, former WBCN Marketing Director

At 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 16th, the Historic Regent Theatre will host a live concert dedicated to The Beatles and the impact they had on America's musical landscape beginning in the '60's. Somerville native and well-known former WBCN Disc Jockey "Cha-Chi" Loprete will host the live concert along with1983 Magical Mystery Tour Organizer, Charles Rosenay.

Live music performances will be headlined by The Cyrkle, who, like The Beatles, were managed by Brian Epstein, got their name from John Lennon, and opened for The Beatles on their very last tour in the U.S.A... The Cyrkle were best known for their 1966 hits "Red Rubber Ball" – a Paul Simon composition, "Parking in the Kokomo" and "Turn-Down Day" as Simon rose to fame with "Sound of Silence" and the night's opener (Billy J. Kramer) toured with Del Shannon, Gene Pitney, and The Everly Brothers at the same time.

Kramer was the first person to have a hit record with a Lennon-McCartney song, "Do You Want To Know A Secret" which was written especially for him by John Lennon and Paul McCartney and recorded with George Martin at Abbey Road Studios even before The Beatles recorded it themselves! The stage will be bustling with excitement and fond memories throughout as both Loprete and Rosenay will deliver a cornucopia of fun with a musical feast from the Fab Four.

Even during the set-changes the years of music that shaped melodies for ever will come alive in the powerhouse performances. The night will reach a crescendo as you'll take a step back in time with New England's premier 1960's tribute band, 60's Thunder. They will transport you back to the "decade of change" with a diverse song selection starting with the Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Doors, Motown classics and many more.

THE CYRKLE (above) in concert.(Photo Credit: Tom Apathy Photography)

The Regent Theatre "Arlington's Show Place of Entertainment" since 1916 is located on 7 Medford Street in Arlington, Massachusetts—minutes from Cambridge, Boston, and Routes 2 and 95. For tickets and more information visit https://regenttheatre.com or call 781-646-4849.

VETERANS' RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

Join us in the Great Room as we honor our veterans' contributions to and sacrifices for our country. Hear from community leaders, residents, and families, and share your stories. After our ceremony, join us for a delicious breakfast prepared by Chef Neil.

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Scandinavian Fair Brings Nordic Cheer to Concord

CONCORD — The Sons of Norway Norumbega Lodge #3-506 is inviting the community to experience the warmth and wonder of Scandinavian culture at their annual Scandinavian Fair, taking place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Concord Middle School.

This beloved fall event offers a festive celebration of Nordic heritage, complete with handcrafted gifts, traditional foods, and live entertainment. Shoppers can browse a variety of Christmas items, jewelry, books, and unique Nordic treasures—perfect for holiday gifting or personal keepsakes.

In addition to the shopping, fair-goers can savor authentic Scandinavian foods, including open-faced sandwiches, fresh-baked waffles, hot dogs, cheeses, jams, candies, and more. A selection of homemade baked goods will also be available for purchase.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the fair will feature live traditional Scandinavian music, and families can even "Meet a Viking"—a favorite attraction for kids and adults alike.

• Admission is $5 for adults and free for children under 16, with all proceeds supporting the cultural and charitable activities of the Norumbega Lodge, a Concord-based chapter of the Sons of Norway, dedicated to preserving and promoting Norwegian and Scandinavian traditions in the community.

Event Details:

- **Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025**
- **Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**
- **Location: Concord Middle School, 923 Old Marlboro Road, Concord, MA**
- **Admission: $5 Adults | Free for Kids under 16**

Whether you're searching for a special holiday gift or simply looking to enjoy a cozy cultural experience, the Scandinavian Fair promises something for everyone.

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neadmissions@northeastmetrotech.com

Tewksbury Police Log

Chelmsford man arrested for OUI liquor

Monday, October 20

5:37 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a dog attacked her dog at Beech Street and Collidge Street. She requested to speak to an officer. Police sent and they advised and spoke to both parties.

9:10 p.m. - A 911 caller reported someone took her cat at Walmart. Received a call from a party who found a cat in the Walmart parking lot. Caller reported she was at Lowell Police Department. The cat had been returned.

Tuesday, October 21

2:50 a.m. - Police out at Extended Stay America checking on a motor vehicle that was suspicious. They spoke with all attached parties. All parties cleared.

8:14 a.m. - A 911 open line showing in the lot females can be heard yelling at Market Basket North. Caller stated a female was yelling at her. Caller was in a gray Camry. Police sent. Officer filed a report. Road rage incident; parties sent on their way.

12:47 p.m. - Walk-in party looked to speak to an officer in regards to past assault at Autofair Toyota of Tewksbury. Officer filed a report.

9:21 p.m. - Caller reported a person who was playing with a blow torch for Advanced Auto Parts. Police sent. They confirmed no blow torching in the area.

Wednesday, October 22

1:58 a.m. - Police checked on motor vehicle at Extended Stay America. They called for back up. Units reported male party checked out.

12:39 p.m. - Caller reported to speak to an officer for a noise complaint last night at Chandler Street. Police sent and reported advice was given.

2:57 p.m. - Caller reported a stolen handicap placard from their van for Water Street. Police sent and officer filed a report.

4:22 p.m. - Walk-in party reported threats made at Old Main Street. Police sent and reported male would be reporting the incident to Lowell Police Department.

Thursday, October 23

3:11 a.m. - Police out with a vehicle for suspicious activity at Extended Stay America. They reported the party checked out.

9:38 a.m. - A 911 caller reported a red sedan at the light for a few light changes at International Place. Police sent. AAA had the vehicle. Officer filed a report.

12:06 p.m. - Caller reported a possible abandoned red mountain bike at Planet Fitness. Police sent, but they were gone on arrival.

4:00 p.m. - Caller at Walmart in loss prevention office reported a past incident of somebody taking paid item from their shopping cart in the parking lot. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

8:30 p.m. - Caller reported male party sleeping on the bench outside at Main Street. They advised male party was moved along.

9:38 p.m. - Caller reported loud music in the area at Jennies Way. Caller was not sure where the music was coming from. Police sent. Officer checked the area. The noise was coming from Andover. Andover Police Department was noticed.

10:36 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver at Villa Roma. Police sent. Officer spoke with the motor vehicle.

Friday, October 24

2:50 a.m. - Police checked on white Chrysler with no back plate and front plate. Everything checked out.

7:11 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a male party who seemed to be intoxicated left at Market Basket South. Police sent. They confirmed they don't appear intoxicated. All units cleared.

8:28 p.m. - A 911 caller reported vehicle in front of him was swerving and driving erratically at East Street and Livingston Street. Police sent and Andover Police Department advised.

9:02 p.m. - A 911 caller reported white male, glasses, sweatpants, and sweatshirt threatened to rob the store due to his ID not scanning at 7-Eleven. Officer filed a report. The male party was trespassed from the store.

9:05 p.m. - Physical fight at Main Street and Shawsheen Street. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

10:37 p.m. - Anonymous caller reported loud noise coming from the area of Ballard Street. Police sent. Officer checked the area and reported all was quiet.

10:55 p.m. - A 911 caller reported he came home from work and his doors were wide open at Merrimack Meadows Lane. Caller reported he was inside and it did not appear anyone was inside. Officer checked home, there appeared to be an oversight.

Saturday, October 25

2:38 a.m. - A 911 caller reported vehicle with no lights on in street, kid with flashlight toward side of garage of caller. Car stopped at end of street at Floyd Avenue and somebody night still be in the area. Caller believed car heading toward Poland Avenue. Police sent. They spoke to the caller and checked the area with no results. No signs of anything suspicious or criminal activity.

11:03 a.m. - A cleaning lady from his home stolen his wife's ring at Kids Stop Family Childcare. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

1:30 p.m. - Caller reported a white male with dark curly hair wearing a navy t-shirt with white lettering on it taking pictures of her house at Bligh Street. Caller reported she last saw the party riding up toward the cul-de-sac. Police sent. Officer spoke to caller and neighbor. Neighbor thought male was taking pics of insects and birds. Calling party was advised.

9:18 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a gray Honda CRV hit a fire hydrant at Star Nails. Male operator was wearing a black shirt, gray sweats, black crocs, and a tan hat. Police sent. Conner Eldridge, 30, of 27 Summer St. in Chelmsford, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor and negligent operation of motor vehicle.

Sunday, October 26

10:52 a.m. - Anonymous caller reported a disturbance coming from the building at Ames Hill Drive. She heard a male party screaming and a dog barked. Police sent. They confirmed no issues coming from there.

6:21 pm - Caller reported two suspicious white males exiting the dealership at Atamian Honda. Police sent and they checked the area. They spoke with the workers moving around.

Wilmington Police Log

Ex-girlfriend takes back engagement ring

Friday, Oct. 17:

1:34 a.m.: Giancarlo Danao Ybanez of 165 Pleasant St., Apt. #101, in Cambridge, was issued a summons for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. This followed a stop of his black 2021 Honda Ridgeline on Mass Avenue.

12:02 p.m.: A gray 2013 Toyota Rav4 crashed through a fence and into a yard on Salem Street. The driver of the vehicle was taken by the fire department.

1:50 p.m.: A caller on North Street reported that while he was out jogging, a white man with shoulder length brown hair walked towards him while yelling. Another neighbor called soon after to report that his neighbor had been outside for a long time carrying a stick and yelling; police sent someone to check the area.

Saturday, Oct. 18:

11:05 a.m.: A caller on Bridge Lane reported a case of credit card fraud.

11:34 a.m.: A blue 2012 Honda Civic rear-ended a brown 1999 Toyota Camry near Triton's Car Wash on Main Street. No airbags were deployed, no injuries were reported, and police assisted with paperwork exchange.

4:43 p.m.: Carlos Mendez of 463 Eastern Ave., Apt. #3C, in Lynn, was arrested for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop/yield, and not having a valid inspection sticker. This followed a stop of his green 2015 Nissan Versa on Industrial Way.

Sunday, Oct. 19:

8:27 p.m.: Thomas F Doyle IV of 59 North St., in Wilmington, was issued a summons for malicious destruction of property under $1,200, and threatening to commit a crime. This followed a caller on North Street reporting that he looked at home camera footage and saw his neighbor in his driveway, throwing things around and smashing a pumpkin.

9:53 p.m.: Liam Patrick O'Brien of 1037 Main St., Apt. #1, in Woburn, was arrested for OUI-Liquor over .08% and possession of an open container of alcohol inside a motor vehicle. This followed his involvement in a motor vehicle accident between a black 2016 Jeep Cherokee and a white 2014 Ford Fusion on Chestnut Street.

Monday, Oct. 20:

2:04 a.m.: Eneias Silva of 20 Locust St., Apt. #102, in Medford, was issued a summons for speeding in violation of special regulations and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. This followed a stop of his black 2023 Hyundai Venue on the Rt. 125 highway.

11:01 a.m.: Robin M Domek of 8 Denault Dr., in Wilmington was issued a summons for Assault & Battery on a family or household member. This followed a walk-in party asking for advice regarding a restraining order over an incident that had happened on Oct. 17.

3:54 p.m.: A caller on Evergreen Drive reported that his ex-girlfriend entered his apartment and took several items, including an engagement ring and a Canon camera worth $800. Police called the woman, who agreed to schedule a time and place to give back the ring, but claimed ownership of the camera.

Tuesday, Oct. 21:

8:57 p.m.: A caller on Woburn Street reported a dark colored pick up truck hit him and took off, continuing towards Rt. 38. No injuries were reported, but police were unable to find the pick up truck.

11:57 p.m.: Wilmington police assisted Burlington police involving a domestic situation with an arrest; the man who was arrested already had one firearm seized, while Wilmington police coordinated the pickup of the remaining three firearms from the woman the day after.

Wednesday, Oct. 22:

8:24 a.m.: A brown 2009 Honda CR-V and a gray 2012 Volkswagen Routan were involved in a motor vehicle accident near Boston Clipper on Lowell Street. One person was taken to Lahey Medical by the fire department.

3:09 p.m.: A blue 2020 Chevy Equinox and a white 2025 Chevy Equinox were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Lake Street. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported, but the white Chevy drove while police were assessing the scene.

3:50 p.m.: A caller at Crazy Customs on Woburn Street reported that a package fell off a pickup truck while en route to Fedex to be mailed out, and that the package hadn't arrived at the Fedex facility yet. The caller would call Fedex to check if they had it in their possession.

Thursday, Oct. 23:

7:33 a.m.: A caller on Richmond Street reported a small sedan pulled over and that a man appeared to be pouring gas from a small container onto the sidewalk. While police were unable to find a vehicle in the area, they did find a six gallon can and a gas spill on the bridge, and notified the DPW for removal and cleanup.

10:50 a.m.: A white 2017 Toyota Camry and a white 1997 Ford Ecovan were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Federal Street. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported, but one of the vehicles left the scene prior to paperwork exchange.

6:14 p.m.: A caller at Allcoat Technology Inc. on Eames Street reported a couple of juveniles throwing firecrackers at oncoming traffic and into the woods, before taking off in a white 2018 BMW 230XI towards Rt. 38. Police checked the area and didn't find any damage, and would speak with the son of BMW's registered owner, reminding him that fireworks are illegal in the state.

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▲ MEJIA

▲ ROCHE (Courtesy photos)

Two arrested, charged with drug trafficking, possession

TEWKSBURY — Police Chief Ryan Columbus reports that, through an ongoing investigation by the Tewksbury Police Narcotics Unit and the Merrimack Valley Anti-Crime Task Force, two individuals were arrested and charged with drug trafficking and possession.

Dionviles Mejia, 25, of Lawrence, was arrested and charged with:

- Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Heroin/Morphine/Opium/Fentanyl (two counts)
- Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Cocaine
- Possession with Intent to Distribute of a Class B Drug, Subsequent Offense

Kaitlin Roche, 39, of Fitchburg, was arrested and charged with:

- Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Heroin/Morphine/Opium/Fentanyl
- Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Cocaine
- Possession with Intent to Distribute of a Class B Drug

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, at about 8:28 p.m., members of the Tewksbury Police Narcotics Unit and the Merrimack Valley Anti-Crime Task Force were operating in the area of 600 Ames Hill Drive as part of an ongoing investigation.

As a result of the investigation, Mejia and Roche were arrested after officers observed them taking part in a drug transaction.

Officers recovered 29.4 grams of fentanyl, 31.8 grams of cocaine, 15.3 grams of crack cocaine, and drug paraphernalia during the investigation.

Mejia and Roche were arraigned in Lowell District Court on Thursday, Oct. 23.

These are allegations. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Home Improvement

SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY TIMES · THE STONEHAM INDEPENDENT · WILMINGTON-TEWKSBURY TOWN CRIER

What you need to know about home equity loans

(BPT) - If you have large or unexpected expenses on the horizon, you may have access to an untapped resource: your home. You could use some of the equity you've built up in your house to meet financial goals, depending on how much equity you have and how you use it.

Here's a guide from the experts at Navy Federal Credit Union to explain how home equity loans work and when you should - or shouldn't - use your home's equity.

What is a home equity loan?

In basic terms, a home equity loan is money you're borrowing using your home as collateral. The equity in your home equals how much of your home's value you actually own (not counting the mortgage you're still paying off).

Home equity loans are frequently offered at lower interest rates than other loans, so they may be a great option for consolidating debt on higher interest credit cards, or large home improvement projects.

You can determine how much equity you have in your home, and how much your home equity loan payments are likely to be, using online calculators.

Here are the two most common types of home equity loans:

Fixed-rate equity loan: This is a lump sum amount you'll draw from your home's equity, paying back monthly at a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan, so you'll know exactly what to expect. Fixed-rate home equity loans are typically used for:

- Home improvements/repairs
* Debt consolidation
* Large purchases
* Life events

Home equity line of credit (HELOC): This is a line of credit secured by the home, which lets you borrow funds if and when needed, up to a set maximum credit limit. You only have to repay the funds you borrow. HELOCs are typically used for:

* Home improvements
* Emergency funds
* Medical expenses
* Debt consolidation

The best use of a home equity loan or home equity line of credit is when the money you borrow increases your home's value via renovations or repairs, as this continues building the equity you're borrowing against. You may also have tax benefits for using the loan toward home improvements, so it's recommended to consult a tax professional.

When NOT to use a home equity loan or HELOC

Because these loans use your home as collateral, remember that you'll want to be sure you can stay on track with loan repayments. For this reason, financial experts advise against using home equity to borrow for things including:

A car purchase: An auto loan is usually a better choice for purchasing a new or used vehicle. Interest rates on auto loans tend to be similar or lower than home equity loans, and auto loans usually require little paperwork and fewer fees.

Vacations: It's better to save up for near-term wants like vacations or large-screen TVs than using your home's equity for something offering no financial return.

College: Consider all options - including federal student loans, scholarships, grants and private student loans - before tapping into home equity. A home equity loan may be a consideration if current mortgage rates are significantly lower than federal student loan rates, especially for graduate or professional degrees. But unlike federal student loans, if you use home equity to pay for college, you won't qualify for income-driven repayment plans or loan forgiveness programs.

Starting a business: Your best bet for launching a business is a business loan through a financial institution or the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). If your business fails and you have a home equity loan or HELOC you can't repay, you're putting your home on the line.

Recurring expenses: Using home equity to cover everyday bills can be a slippery slope. Consider your long-term ability to repay the loan. Since your home is your collateral, missed payments could lead to foreclosure.

Make a smart plan

Your home equity is a valuable resource for managing your finances. Planning ahead and understanding your repayment responsibilities is crucial for making the best use of a home equity loan or home equity line of credit. For more information and to explore your home equity options, visit NavyFederal.org/equity. Navy Federal is federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.

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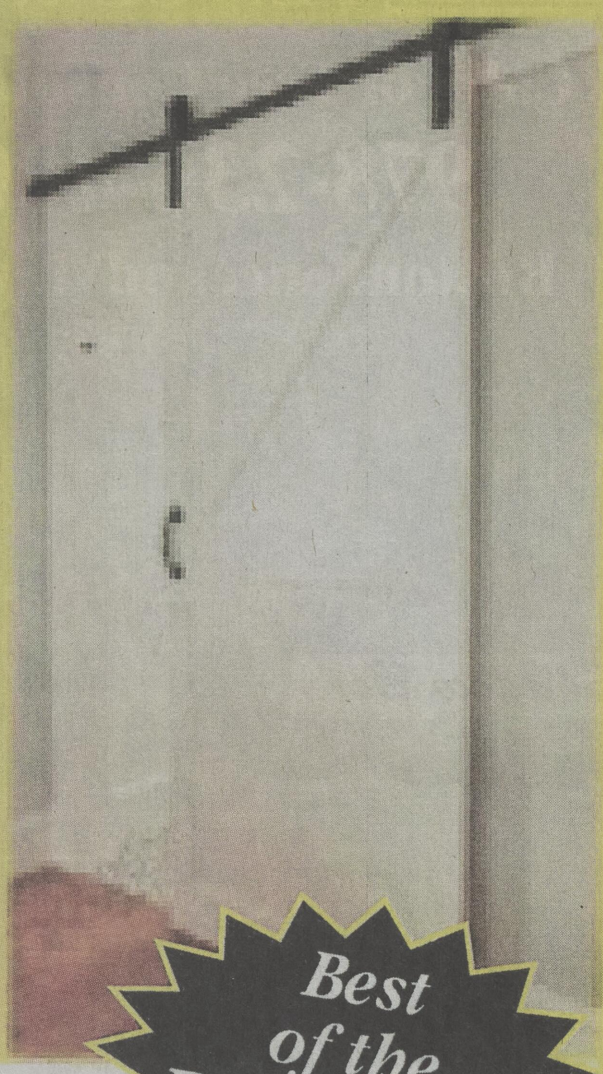

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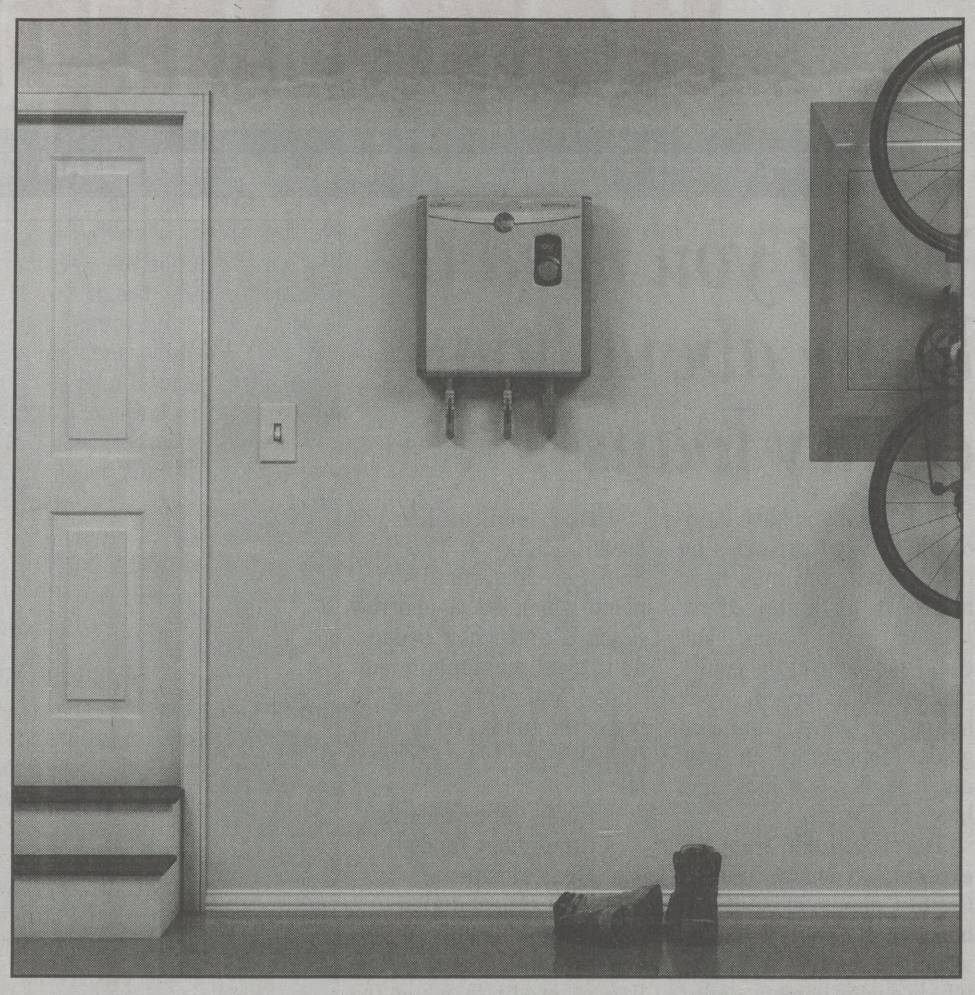
How to select the right tankless electric water heater for any home



(BPT) - Tankless electric water heaters are transforming the way households experience hot water by offering energy-efficient, space-saving solutions that deliver heated water on demand. These compact units can be up to 98% smaller than traditional storage water heaters. They may be installed in tight spaces or even mounted to a wall, freeing up valuable space while reducing energy consumption.

Selecting the right model requires preparation and research. Homeowners should consider key elements of their home's design, including the number of occupants, bathrooms and hot water appliances - paired with overall water usage - to ensure the correct tankless electric water heater is installed.

Tip 1: Estimate household hot water demand

A critical first step is properly estimating the household's hot water demand. A tankless electric water heater's flow rate, measured in gallons per minute (GPM), determines its size. Calculating how many hot water GPMs the household typically uses is essential and is done by adding up the flow rates of fixtures, such as faucets and showers, that run at the same time.

After determining the GPM required to meet all the household's simultaneous needs, the homeowner can choose the right size tankless electric water heater. For example, if someone uses the shower while two faucets are running, the home will need a tankless electric water heater with at least a 5 GPM capacity.

Another important consideration is the number of bathrooms and typical usage patterns of occupants. Larger families or homes with multiple bathrooms may require a higher-capacity unit, whereas smaller households can often rely on a more compact solution. For example, the Rheem RTEX and EcoSmart models under the Rheem® family of brands cater to a wide range of needs, from point-of-use (POU) units for single fixtures, to whole-home options designed to handle multiple fixtures concurrently.

Tip 2: Factor in regional climate

Groundwater temperatures vary across the country. In northern regions of the U.S., which tend to be colder, the ground water is also colder. This means that a higher temperature rise (difference between the ground water temperature and the desired output water temperature) is required compared to warmer southern areas.

For example, in southern areas where the groundwater temperature is 62° F, to reach a desired output water temperature of 105° F, the temperature rise would be 43° F. Whereas, in northern regions, if the groundwater temperature is 40° F to reach 105° F, the temperature rise is much higher at 65° F. The unit has to work harder to achieve this temperature.

For this reason, certain models will work well in southern climates, but a similar household in a northern region may need a larger tankless electric water heater to achieve the degree rise needed to meet household hot water requirements.

Tip 3: Account for water temperature and flow rate

Water temperature and flow rate are equally crucial when determining the appropriate tankless electric water heater size. Higher flow rates demand more powerful models to maintain consistent hot water output. Some residences may be accommodated by one whole-home unit, while others may require multiple point-of-use systems.

Tip 4: Evaluate electrical capacity

The home's electrical capacity is another essential consideration when selecting a tankless electric water heater. For most homes, the average available amp service is either 100-, 200-, or 300-amps. While a 200-amp service panel typically suffices for average households, new construction, larger homes and high-demand systems may require a higher 300-amp service panel. Additionally, older homes with lower amp service may require an electric panel upgrade to meet the needs of a tankless electric water heater.

Higher-capacity tankless electric water heaters require more power, so be sure to assess the capability of the home's electric service panel to accommodate additional circuit breakers before installation. Consult a licensed electrician or contractor to evaluate the home, circuit breaker size and wiring gauge to ensure the service panel can handle the load, prevent overloads and ensure a safe, efficient operation.

There are many benefits to tankless electric water heaters, including the ease of installation. Tankless electric models simplify installation by eliminating the need for venting, but sizing is key. If the unit is undersized, it may not fully meet demand during simultaneous water use. An oversized unit can lead to unnecessary energy consumption and higher utility costs.

Follow these tips and use a manufacturer's guide, such as Rheem's online sizing resource, to confidently select a tankless electric water heater model, then work with a professional to guarantee a safe and efficient installation for endless hot water and energy-efficient operation.

The rise of renter expectations: What multifamily pros need to know in 2025

(BPT) - An in-depth look at today's renter demands for modern amenities and stylish design; how choosing the right plumbing fixtures can make or break a renovation

Renters today aren't just looking for a place to live, they're looking for spaces that reflect their style and day-to-day needs. From practical amenities to Instagram-inspired aesthetics, renter expectations are shifting fast - and for contractors building out these multifamily spaces, keeping up can mean the difference between a unit that sits vacant and one with a waitlist.

Modern renters, modern needs

It's no secret that today's generation is reshaping the rental market. Making up nearly 47% of recent U.S. renters, Gen Z brings a sharp eye for design, high digital fluency and strong opinions on how their spaces should look and feel. Raised on a steady stream of Pinterest boards and Instagram Reels, style is the standard. But those expectations are colliding with reality as renovation costs have surged over 60% in recent years, leaving contractors looking for smart, budget-friendly solutions.

Fortunately, modern style doesn't necessarily mean major spending. Recent data shows that simple design touches like cohesive looks, matte black finishes or ambient lighting go a long way in creating a space that feels current and move-in ready. As renters become more vocal about their design preferences, especially within the growing DIY culture, contractors who prioritize aesthetically pleasing, cost-efficient upgrades are better positioned to attract modern-day tenants and those to come.

One approachable yet impactful way for contractors to meet these evolving renter demands is by choosing plumbing fixtures that combine modern style with everyday functionality. The new Ezra™ Bathroom Collection Curve Spout expansion by Peerless® Faucet is a perfect example. This new curved spout adds modern sophistication to any bathroom renovation plan. Featuring sharp lines, ergonomic handles and a contemporary silhouette, this collection offers contractors design-forward flexibility, making it easier to meet renter aesthetic expectations while staying on budget. This expansion is available in a Single-Handle and Two-Handle Widespread design and in trending finishes like Matte Black, Chrome and Brushed Nickel.

Featuring Ezra™ Bathroom Collection by Peerless® Faucet

Focus on the basics

While modern-day renters are increasingly drawn to stylish, design-forward spaces, that doesn't mean professionals need to invest in extravagant upgrades like rooftop pools or luxury fitness centers. In fact, today's renters are just as focused on the essentials that enhance their everyday lifestyle. Recent data shows that practical amenities suffice - with secure parking, in-unit laundry, and well-designed and functional interiors ranking as the most

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• Renter expectations

(From C2)

valued features. This signals a shift: Renters want convenience and comfort without compromising style, and smart investments in the basics can have a big impact.

Practical doesn't have to mean plain. Today's renters are gravitating toward features that marry everyday functionality with visual appeal and lifestyle relevance. It's not about adding luxury for luxury's sake - it's about elevating the essentials through thoughtful touches. For contractors and developers, the takeaway is clear: Focus on core amenities, but execute them in ways that feel intentional, stylish and reflective of today's wellness-driven, design-savvy renter.

To support this shift, industry organizations like the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) offer professionals a foundation for delivering on both form and function. With resources ranging from trend forecasting and continuing education to certification programs and product guidance, NKBA equips pros with the knowledge and tools needed to bring high-impact, well-designed spaces to life - no matter the project scale or budget.

Create spaces for community

In addition to valuing practicality and style, today's renters are placing a growing emphasis on connection and community. As remote work and digital lifestyles continue to reshape how people live, shared spaces that foster social interaction are becoming a must-have in multifamily design.

Features like co-working lounges, pet-friendly zones, outdoor kitchens and rooftop gathering areas are increasingly sought-after because they support both the lifestyle and desires of modern renters. These communal amenities do more than attract attention - they encourage engagement, enhance quality of life, and play a pivotal role in long-term satisfaction and retention.

Featuring Ezra™ Bathroom Collection by Peerless® Faucet

The bottom line

In 2025, meeting renter expectations isn't about chasing extravagance - so there is no need to splurge on flashy upgrades. It's about creating spaces that feel modern, intentional and livable. Today's renters want thoughtful design, practical amenities and a sense of community.

By prioritizing style-forward essentials, functionally modern features and communal elements that reflect real needs, multifamily professionals can craft environments that truly resonate with potential tenants. The result? Properties that stand out attract discerning renters and foster long-term satisfaction without overspending.

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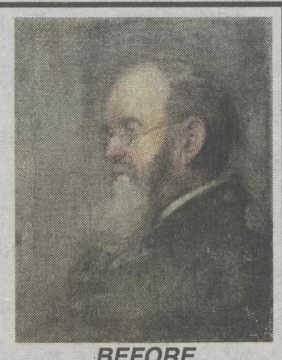

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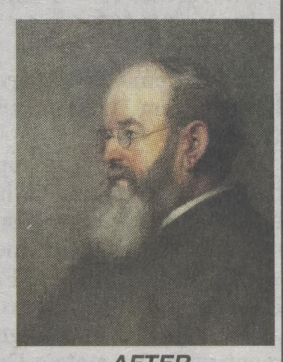

AFTER

How to turn a roof replacement into a design moment

(BPT) - Keith Bynum and Evan Thomas, cohosts of the HGTV series "Bargain Block," are experts at transforming properties and boosting curb appeal. A home's roof is a big part of the design duo's roof transformations that pair curb appeal with powerful protection. Below are excerpts from a conversation with Keith and Evan about using color to make the most of a roof replacement.

What makes the roof such a good place to make a design statement?

(ET) Representing a large amount of a home's exterior, the roof provides an ideal space for enhancing curb appeal. However, a roof also needs to be designed to stand up to the elements to help protect one of a consumer's biggest investments - their home.

New shingles give homeowners lasting peace of mind. They know they've made a home improvement that will last for a long time.

(KB) But there is also curb appeal to think about. In many cases, a home's roof is the single largest thing you see when you pull up to a house, so it can have a huge effect on a home's appearance.

What are some roof design trends you are seeing in the market?

(KB) There are a lot more color options to choose from today. Owens Corning offers homeowners the option of so many dimensional colors. It's kind of unbelievable how color options have expanded. When I was a kid, we had cedar, tan and black. Now, you get to have this luxurious moment with the roof and all of the shingle color selections. And luxury is something people expect now - even first-time home buyers.

(ET) When you have so many options, selecting a color gets easier. The undertones in the Owens Corning TruDefinition® Designer shingle line are neutral, but the pops of color and dimensional textures in the granules make roof color more interesting.

What advice do you offer to homeowners for choosing a shingle color?

(KB) Color tools help homeowners make a beautiful decision that still feels safe. Matching a shingle with a monotone or selecting a complementary color makes it work. I ask people, "Tell me about colorful things that you love," and that gets them going down a color path. Online style boards and color tools let people see how unexpected color pairings come together. I love the Owens Corning Duration® Designer shingles in Black Sable, which give the richness of slate. And I also love Owens Corning Duration®Designer shingle colors Storm Cloud and Pacific Wave!

I used to carry a color wheel. If you're not confident, you just look across the wheel and there's a complementary color on the opposite side.

(ET) As long as you are coordinating colors well, you can use almost any color and it will look good. It's about making sure that you have the right colors paired together. And so, whether you go with a Prairie Craftsman or an Italianate look, it will still look good because you are pairing things properly.

How can a contractor assist homeowners in selecting a roof color?

(KB) A color consultation is a good place to start. Contractors in the Owens Corning Roofing Contractor Network can offer design tools to help inspire a color decision. When looking at shingle boards, removing the color options homeowners don't like makes it easy to focus on colors that may pair well.

In our business, we've proven that you can work design into the home's improvement and still get the performance and budget you're looking for. The mood boards Owens Corning put together help contractors and homeowners make use of a proven color process.

What does a color consultation involve?

(KB) We ask people to tell us about themselves and about their house and that really helps personalize color. It also brings a sense of luxury design into the process.

(ET) Sometimes homeowners have a perception that a luxury design roof has to be unaffordable. Advances in asphalt shingles and color pairing mood boards provide an approachable design moment that gives homeowners a luxury look at an asphalt price point.

Learn more about Keith and Evan's collaboration with Owens Corning and check out "Bargain Block" season 4, currently airing on HGTV.

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Healey-Driscoll Administration announces money for Tewksbury schools

FITCHBURG — The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced more than $8.5 million in career-connected learning grants to support school districts and workforce partners in expanding high-quality career pathways and work-based learning opportunities for students across Massachusetts. Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler made the announcement while touring Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms at Montachusett Vocational Partnership (MVP) Academy in Fitchburg.

The funding announced today supports regional and local collaborations to expand or create CTE programs. It also supports the implementation of the Massachusetts Career Connected Learning Frameworks, MyCAP, a student-driven process that helps every student design a personalized plan for postsecondary success in college or a career, and MEFA Pathways, a statewide portal for work-based learning plans.

Further, the funding supports all 16 MassHire Workforce Boards to expand work-based learning immersion experiences and build a regional system of support for high schools to connect students with meaningful career experiences.

"Every student deserves the opportunity to explore their interests and connect what they learn in the classroom to their future careers," said Governor Maura Healey. "These grants will help schools and communities give students meaningful experiences that open doors and build confidence in their next steps after high school."

"Our administration is focused on helping every student find a pathway to success," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "By investing in career-connected learning, we're ensuring that students can engage in hands-on experiences, learn from local employers, and build the skills they need to excel in the workforce."

Today's announcement supports several key career-connected learning programs that advance the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Reimaging High School initiative and will help prepare students for success in college, career, and civic life by strengthening connections between classrooms and real-world experiences. The funding is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and aligns with the Massachusetts Career Connected Learning Hub and Career Pathway Strategies.

"Career-connected learning works best when schools, employers, and communities come together to support students," said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. "When we connect classroom learning with real-world experiences, we help students build confidence, develop essential skills, and discover pathways that lead to meaningful careers and lifelong success."

"Through these opportunities, students can see themselves in high-demand jobs, giving them meaningful goals to work toward," said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez. "We want students to be able to make that essential connection between learning and a career."

The administration has been expanding access to career-connected education in a variety of ways through their Reimagining High School initiative. In August, the administration approved 49 CTE programs, supporting 2,334 additional students. In June, Governor Healey signed a supplemental budget that included $100 million for CTE capital grants that will add more than 3,000 seats over three years.

Also, Governor Healey's BRIGHT Act includes $100 million for Skills Capital grants that help high schools, colleges and educational institutions upgrade technology and instructional lab spaces, expand career programs, and increase the capacity of workforce training programs. These efforts build on expansions the administration has made to Early College programs, Innovation Career Pathways, work-based learning opportunities and My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP).

"Career-connected learning increases access and opportunities for students to gain hands-on experiences and explore pathways for careers in Massachusetts," said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. "We appreciate the collaboration between DESE and our MassHire regional workforce boards to unlock these foundational tools that will position students to be prepared for our future workforce."

"We are committed to providing students with opportunities to learn and gain hands-on experience in high-demand industries to prepare them for their futures," said Senator Jason Lewis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. "These grants will support schools and workforce partners to help students master new skills and discover possible career options."

"The Legislature and the Administration are united in supporting work-based learning opportunities that will set students on the path to their future careers," said Representative Ken Gordon (D-Bedford), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. "These initiatives are essential to guiding students toward successful futures and meeting the evolving needs of our workforce."

"We are so honored to be included in the 2025 STEM Week activities, providing guests with an opportunity to tour MVP Academy, visit with our students and instructors, and start to imagine how this model may be replicated in their own districts. Monty Tech is so fortunate to have incredible partnerships with Fitchburg, Gardner, and Narragansett Regional Schools — who have trusted us enough to step into this model that has not been done before in the Commonwealth. Without them, their eager students and certainly support from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this facility — and these opportunities — would not be possible," said Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Superintendent Tom Browne.

CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING GRANTS AND RECIPIENTS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Partnership Grant: $565,830

Supports regional and local collaborations to expand or create CTE programs that give more students access to hands-on learning and career preparation opportunities:

- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School (Danvers) - $38,455
- Greater Lawrence Technical School (Andover) - $20,000
- Whittier Technical High School (Haverhill) - $42,000
- Lynn Public Schools - $213,875
- Leicester Public Schools - $51,500
- New Bedford Public Schools - $200,000

Connected Activities Grant: $6.3 million

Funding for all 16 MassHire Workforce Boards to expand work-based learning immersion experiences, strengthen partnerships with local employers, and build a regional system of support for high schools to connect students with meaningful career experiences:

- Berkshire County Regional Employment Board - $334,438
- Boston Private Industry Council - $1,536,417
- Bristol County Training Consortium - $301,981
- Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board - $249,382
- Cape & Island Workforce Development Board, Inc. - $305,418
- Lowell Career Center - $393,092
- North Shore Workforce Investment Board - $355,425
- Franklin Hampshire Employment & Training Consortium - $352,392
- Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board - $203,749
- Hampden County Workforce Investment Board - $407,188
- Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board - $329,502
- Metro North Regional Employment Board - $404,662
- Metro South/West Workforce Board - $400,276
- North Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, Inc. - $277,999
- South Coastal Career Development Administration - $207,724
- Worcester City Manager's Office - $261,473

Work-Based Learning (WBL) Planning and Resource Development Grant: $500,000

Helps schools join a pilot program to expand work-based learning opportunities and implement MEFA Pathway as the new statewide work-based learning database:

- Amherst-Pelham Regional School District - $25,000
- Athol-Royalston Regional School District - $25,000
- Bourne Public Schools - $25,000
- Codman Academy Charter School (Boston) - $25,000
- Holyoke Public Schools - $25,000
- Hudson Public Schools - $12,000
- Lowell Public Schools - $25,000
- Maynard Public Schools - $25,000
- Middleborough Public Schools - $24,000
- Milford Public Schools - $25,000
- Quaboag Regional School District - $23,025
- Shrewsbury Public Schools - $10,000
- **Tewksbury Public Schools - $25,000**
- Wachusett Regional School District - $25,000
- Webster Public Schools - $25,000
- Worcester Public Schools - $14,985

Career Connected Learning Program Development Grant: $300,000

Provides funding to support implementation of the Massachusetts Career Connected Learning Frameworks, MyCAP, and MEFA Pathways, along with program supplies and alignment with the state's Career Pathway Principles:

- Blue Hills Regional School District (Canton)- $25,000
- Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District - $25,000
- Haverhill Public Schools - $25,000
- Hull Public Schools - $25,000
- Leominster Public Schools - $25,000
- Lynn Public Schools - $25,000
- Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District - $25,000
- Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District - $25,000
- Quincy Public Schools - $25,000
- Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District - $25,000
- Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District - $25,000
- Watertown Public Schools - $25,000

My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) Grant: $925,132

Supports districts entering the planning or early implementation phase of MyCAP, a student-driven process that helps every student design a personalized plan for postsecondary success in college or a career:

- Advanced Math & Science Academy (Marlborough) - $7,000
- Andover Public Schools - $12,000
- Athol Royalston Regional School District - $7,000
- Barnstable Public Schools - $7,000
- Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School (Adams) - $7,000
- Blue Hills Regional Technical School (Canton) - $7,000
- Boston Public Schools - $69,990
- Bourne Public Schools - $7,000
- Cape Cod Regional Technical High School - $5,850
- Dedham Public Schools - $14,000
- Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School - $18,376
- Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School - $7,000
- Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers - $7,000
- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School (Danvers) - $7,000
- Fairhaven Public Schools - $5,460
- Fall River Public Schools - $46,000
- Framingham Public Schools - $6,057
- Freetown-Lakeview Regional School District - $14,000
- Gateway Regional School District - $7,000
- Georgetown Public Schools - $7,000
- Granby Public Schools - $7,000
- Greater Lowell Technical High School (Tyngsborough) - $7,000
- Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School - $7,000
- Hadley Public Schools - $7,000
- Holyoke Public Schools - $21,000
- Hoosac Valley Regional School District (Adams) - $7,000
- Innovation Academy Charter School (Tyngsborough) - $7,000
- King Philip Regional School District (Wrentham) - $7,000
- Lee Public Schools - $7,000
- Leicester Public Schools - $7,000
- Lenox Public Schools - $7,000
- Lowell Public Schools - $7,000
- Lynn Public Schools - $49,000
- Malden Public Schools - $7,000
- Mashpee Public Schools - $7,000
- Maynard Public Schools - $11,800
- Medway Public Schools - $14,000
- Methuen Public Schools - $7,000
- Milford Public Schools - $14,000
- Monson Public Schools - $3,000
- New Bedford Public Schools - $28,000
- North Adams Public Schools - $7,000
- North Attleborough Public Schools - $6,986
- North Reading Public Schools - $14,000
- Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District - $3,716
- Pittsfield Public Schools - $28,000
- Quabbin Regional School District - $9,600
- Quaboag Regional School District - $14,000
- Quincy Public Schools - $14,000
- Reading Public Schools - $21,000
- Salem Public Schools - $13,780
- Scituate Public Schools - $3,100
- SEEM Collaborative (Stoneham) - $7,000
- Somerville Public Schools - $7,000
- South Shore Regional Vocational School District - $7,000
- Southern Berkshire Regional School District - $7,000
- Southern Worcester Regional Vocational School District - $6,768
- Springfield Public Schools - $63,000
- Stoneham Public Schools - $14,000
- Stoughton Public Schools - $14,000
- Sutton Public Schools - $11,000
- Taunton Public Schools - $7,000
- TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District - $7,000
- Triton Regional School District - $14,000
- Uxbridge Public Schools - $7,000
- Veritas Preparatory Charter School - $7,000
- Wachusett Regional School District - $42,000
- Walpole Public Schools - $7,000
- Wareham Public Schools - $7,000
- Webster Public Schools - $6,999
- West Springfield Public Schools - $5,650
- Westborough Public Schools - $7,000
- Westfield Public Schools - $7,000
- Westport Public Schools - $7,000
- Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School (Haverhill) - $7,000

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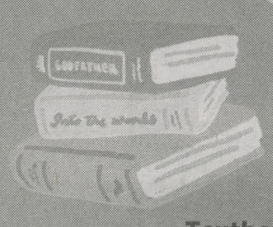

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Gov. Healey appoints MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng as interim transportation secretary

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey announced that she has named Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) General Manager Phillip Eng as Interim Transportation Secretary. Monica Tibbits-Nutt has made the decision to step down from her positions as Secretary of the Department of Transportation and CEO of MassDOT effective Thursday, Oct. 16 and has agreed to continue as an advisor through Dec. 31, 2025 to ensure a smooth and efficient transition for MassDOT. Secretary Tibbits-Nutt plans to return to private industry.

Eng will serve as both interim secretary and general manager during this time. Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver has also been promoted to Undersecretary of Transportation. He will retain his role as Highway Administrator while also taking on expanded responsibilities as Undersecretary.

"As General Manager of the MBTA, Phil Eng has overseen a transformative period for public transportation in our state and delivered the results that the people of Massachusetts have needed for a long time when it comes to safety and reliability. He is a trusted leader with decades of transportation experience, and I know that he is the right person to lead MassDOT during this period," said Governor Healey. "Jonathan Gulliver is the longest serving Highway Administrator in MassDOT's history for a reason — he knows how to deliver major, complex projects while also supporting our cities and towns' needs when it comes to their roads and bridges. He is well deserving of this promotion."

"Secretary Tibbits-Nutt has led our entire statewide transportation system and a workforce of more than 12,000 employees," continued Governor Healey. "Under her leadership, we made significant progress on some of the most complex and consequential infrastructure investments in state history, including the Cape Cod Bridges, West/East Rail, and the Sumner Tunnel Restoration. During her tenure, MassDOT secured more than $1.8 billion in federal transportation funding — the highest in state history — and she was instrumental in advancing equitable fare policy across the state. Even before she joined MassDOT, she was advocating for fare free regional transit and, as Secretary, she delivered the state's first fully funded statewide fare-free transit program for our 13 Regional Transit Authorities. At the same time, she supported the establishment of a groundbreaking low-income fare program for the MBTA. These programs have already made transportation more affordable for millions of Massachusetts residents. We are grateful for Secretary Tibbits-Nutt's hard work and dedication to MassDOT and for her willingness to continue to serve as a resource for our administration."

"A well-balanced multimodal transportation network is essential. MassDOT and the MBTA work hand-in-hand to make sure our transportation system is safe, reliable and modernized," said Interim MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phil Eng. "I look forward to taking on this interim role with MassDOT and working even more closely with Undersecretary Gulliver and their great team to deliver the world-class transportation system that the people of Massachusetts and our visitors deserve. I'm grateful for the partnership of Monica Tibbits-Nutt these past few years and her strong support of the reforms we have made at the T. It is an honor and privilege to serve every community across Massachusetts as part of Governor Healey's Administration."

"I'm proud of the progress we have made at MassDOT, and I want to thank my team at the Highway Division who I've had the privilege of leading for over eight years," said Undersecretary of Transportation Jonathan Gulliver. "This is an exciting moment for the future of Massachusetts' transportation infrastructure, as we have the opportunity to make transformative upgrades and deliver for our people and our economy. I'm grateful to Monica Tibbits-Nutt for her many contributions these past few years, and I look forward to getting to work with Interim Secretary Eng and the entire team."

About Phil Eng

Governor Healey appointed Phil Eng as General Manager of the MBTA in March 2023. Since then, he has overseen a transformative period at the nation's 4th largest public transit system, enhancing safety, reliability, accessibility and service.

Under his leadership, the MBTA eliminated all subway speed restrictions for the first time in over 20 years, opened South Coast Rail to deliver rail service to Southeastern Mass for the first time in 65 years, continuing the highest return to ridership rate in the nation on commuter rail with all day frequent train service, delivering new modern Orange and Red Line cars while accelerating modernization of the signal system on those lines, and hiring thousands of labor workforce to rebuild the MBTA to better serve the riding public, communities and businesses with shorter travel times and more frequent service.

Eng started his career at the New York State Department of Transportation beginning in 1983 as a Junior Engineer. Over the course of three decades Eng held many roles including planning, in-house design, bridge inspection including the 4 East River Bridges (Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Ed Koch Queensboro Bridges), Maintenance and Operations. He ultimately served as Executive Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer from 2013-2017, delivering many signature and transformative projects, including the Mario M. Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge and Kosciuszko Bridge. He then served as Chief Operating Officer of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he oversaw successful efforts to improve performance and efficiency across all agencies, including the NYC Transit Authority, Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road and MTA Bridges and Tunnels.

Eng was then tapped to serve as Interim President of NYC Transit, where he led a workforce of 50,000 employees and was integral to initiating and implementing the $836 million Subway Action Plan to fix aging infrastructure and improve performance across the system.

From 2018-2022, Eng served as President of the MTA Long Island Rail Road, where he managed a system of 7,600 employees and a $1.6 billion operating budget. He then served as Executive Vice President of the LiRo Group, where he advised public and private sector clients on engineering, transportation and infrastructure projects.

About Jonathan Gulliver

Jonathan Gulliver has served as the State Highway Administrator at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation since 2017 and is the longest serving administrator in the department's history. He oversees the daily operations of the state highway system and leads a team of nearly 2,800 staff responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of the Commonwealth's roadway infrastructure.

He has dedicated nearly three decades to public service, beginning as a construction inspector in heavy construction and infrastructure and has successfully advanced several of the state's most transformative projects. He has overseen major projects such as the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project, the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project, and the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Replacement Project.

Under his leadership, municipal grant funding has expanded from $20 million to $65 million across programs such as the Local Bottleneck Reduction, Small Bridge, Municipal Pavement, Complete Streets, and Shared Streets and Spaces. He is responsible for the annual delivery of MassDOT's $2 billion plus capital program and has held multiple leadership positions within MassDOT.

Administrator Gulliver is active in several professional organizations and has served on numerous advisory boards and national committees focused on innovation, safety, and infrastructure delivery.

He is the recipient of several industry honors, including the Honorable Ray LaHood Award from WTS Boston (2022) and the Professional Manager of the Year in Transportation from the American Public Works Association (2025). He holds a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Senate Republicans seeks emergency contract reforms

BOSTON — Responding to ongoing reports of serious issues involving the use of emergency contracts in the state's emergency assistance shelter system, Massachusetts Senate Republicans have put forward comprehensive legislation to reform the use of these types of contracts in order to increase transparency and accountability and strengthen the integrity of emergency procurements involving state funding.

The new bill, An Act to promote contract accountability and integrity, contains provisions which include time limits for contracts, increased reviews, and expedited public disclosure of procurements.

"Expedited procurements play an important role in responding to emergencies, but their use needs to be limited, tailored to specific emergency conditions, and accompanied by transparency and accountability," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the chief sponsor of the legislation. "The provisions of this legislation address serious issues that have been raised by multiple sources over the past several months and would significantly reduce the risk of impropriety whenever an emergency drives procurements."

The bill's provisions apply to contracts with a value of more than $100,000, to which the state is a party.

They include measures which:

• Limit emergency procurements to no more than 90 days, while allowing subsequent 90-day extensions based on written findings of necessity

• Require that a procurement officer make a record of each emergency contract as soon as practicable, specifying each contractor's name, expenditure amounts, a listing of the supply or service provided, and the basis for determining the need for an emergency procurement

• Require that these records must also detail the cause and circumstances of the emergency, the reasons why it was not reasonably foreseeable, and any identifiable risks arising from not utilizing an emergency contract

• Require that a copy of this procurement record be submitted at the earliest possible time to the Secretary of State's office and posted to the office's website in an area dedicated exclusively for posting of procurements

• Require that a copy of the procurement record also be submitted to the Inspector General for review, the results of which will be filed in a report to the state Senate and House of Representatives

"Government contracts continue to increase costs at a rate that is unsustainable, carried by Massachusetts residents, and prohibitive to innovation to drive costs down," said State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "By allowing for transparent bidding and more accountability competition will increase and thereby decrease the cost burden for taxpayers. Massachusetts needs to promote and encourage cost controls through innovation and transparency, which is exactly what this legislation will do."

The accountability measures included in the new legislation directly respond to ongoing concerns about the lack of transparency and oversight in the state's use of emergency contracts.

In May, the Office of the State Auditor released a 74-page report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), outlining a pattern of "improper and unlawful" no-contract bids for the procurement of services for the state's emergency shelter system that lasted far too long. In the report, Auditor Diana DiZoglio found that the EOHLC repeatedly relied on multimillion dollar deals with vendors that drove up taxpayer expenditures in circumstances where officials "should have used the normal procurement process."

"This bill places an important safeguard on taxpayer dollars by ensuring that they are spent in an open, responsible, and transparent manner. It promotes honesty and accountability in times of emergency and establishes that no government contract extends too long without warrant or good reason. This bill is a step in the right direction in preserving both the high standards and integrity of the Commonwealth and reinforcing public trust in how we allocate their hard-earned money," said State Senator Patrick M. O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "Transparency between legislators and the public is of the utmost importance to me, and I believe that this legislation provides the accountability framework for that."

Other concerns regarding the state's use of no-bid contracts have surfaced following the auditor's report. Just this month, a new report from the *Boston Globe* found that a nonprofit organization which was paid nearly $10 million by the state for emergency shelter services outsourced meal catering to a local grocery chain owned by a board member of the same non-profit. The grocery chain won the job without submitting a formal bid or even signing a written contract outlining the services to be provided.

"Labeling a situation an 'emergency' should never be a free pass to circumvent transparency or due diligence," said Mary Connaughton, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government Transparency at the Pioneer Institute, who was quoted in the Globe's reporting on the no-bid contract.

"This legislation is a critical step toward restoring trust and ensuring that taxpayer dollars aren't spent through loopholes, but through accountable and clearly documented decisions," said Connaughton, who also served on the Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct and as COO of the State Lottery.

Responding to these reports, the new legislation adds restrictions on nonprofit organizations involved in a contract to which the state is a party, including:

• Subjecting any nonprofit entity conducting work under a state contract, grant, or other state funding to the state's contract procurement laws, including adherence to competitive bidding procedures

• Subjecting any board member, officer, director or employee of a non-profit seeking or receiving contracts involving state funding to the state's conflict of interest law

"We have a responsibility to make sure every taxpayer dollar is spent with integrity and oversight. This bill adds much needed transparency to emergency contracting and holds all recipients of public funds, including nonprofits, to high ethical standards. It is a practical measure that promotes accountability, strengthens public trust, and protects taxpayer dollars," said State Senator Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton).

"If we have learned anything in the past few years it's that we need to change the way these contracts are approved and managed. The state needs to be fair and accountable in the awarding of contracts. We must be mindful that these are taxpayer dollars which should be frugally expended with very close oversight," State Senator Peter Durant (R-Spencer), said.

Having filed the bill, the Senate Republican Caucus will continue advocating for strengthened oversight, transparency, and responsibility in the state's contracting process. The bill will be assigned a docket number by the Senate Clerk in the coming days and now awaits admission to the House and Senate.

Bambino Baseball wrapped up its fall season on Sunday with costumes and pizza generously donated by Wicked Cheesy. Coach Dan Abbott was thrilled with the turnout this season and thanked all community volunteers for their help. Next up: Buddy Basketball set to start on Dec. 7. Stay tuned for more details in the paper. (Paige Impink photo)

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An alternative to Salem's witchcraft

CABOT HOUSE OFFERS HISTORY WITHOUT THE CROWDS

Lifestyle

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

At this time of year, many flock to the North Shore area of Massachusetts to the historic town of Salem to experience the ultimate encounter of witchcraft and ghost stories during the Halloween season.

Because this is such a well known and extremely popular seasonal destination, it can be hard to navigate through Salem with all of the extra crowds and traffic.

For those looking for a seaside daytrip filled with history without the crowds, you may want to consider a visit to another less known historic North Shore community, known as the Town of Beverly.

Founded in 1626 as a fishing and farming community, Beverly became the birthplace of the U.S.Navy during the revolutionary war, making it a community with many significant ties to this era of American history.

Today, Beverly is the home of Endicott College, and is now known for its scenic ocean views and vibrant arts and culture scene.

Despite many changes over the years, Beverly has kept its old New England charm and boasts many historical landmarks, including the famous John Cabot House.

The John Cabot House, located in the south end of the Beverly Arts district at 117 Cabot St., was the first brick mansion to be built in Beverly. It was built by and the home of John Cabot in 1781.

Cabot was born in 1774, and was one of 11 children born to Joseph and Elizabeth Cabot of Salem.

Joseph Cabot was a successful merchant in Salem, but upon his death, his wife moved to Beverly to finish raising her family.

After graduating from Harvard, Cabot achieved financial success of his own during the Revolutionary War era by owning shares in many private vessels. He was also co-founder of America's first cotton mill.

In its day, the Cabot House was a showpiece of a homestead, the perfect place for a man of Cabot's standing in the community to emphasize his wealth. This home would have also housed elegant furnishings and decorative items collected from around the world to impress the many visitors of importance that would have been invited to this home.

In 1802, the Cabot House became the first office of the Beverly Bank, one of the ten oldest banks in America. In fact, John Cabot at one time served as one of the original directors of the Beverly Bank.

The bank remained on the premises until 1868, and eventually the property was willed to the Beverly Historical Society in 1892, and currently serves as a museum, research center, and visitor's center.

Although relatively simple design by today's mansion standards, this Georgian-style home features architectural details that only the wealthy of that time could afford.

Visitors to the Cabot House will be impressed by such details as hand-carved paneling and dutch tiles that surround the fireplace.

Beside historical architecture, the John Cabot House Museum offers period rooms, maritime, military and children exhibits.

For those still looking for a little witchcraft folklore and history, the second floor of the Cabot House focuses on the 17th century, and offers information and artifacts pertaining to the area's witchcraft trials of 1692.

The museum also offers featured exhibits that change throughout the years.

Currently on exhibit, visitors can experience the exhibit Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy.

This exhibit centers around the reading copy of the Declaration of Independence read by Gen. John Glover on July 17, 1776 at Beverly's Independence Park.

Through documents, images, and first hand accounts, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of how this 1776 document has affected other movements of freedom throughout our history.

The John Cabot House is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays noon to 8 p.m. Admission is free and street parking is available.

The Declaration 1776 exhibit is on display through July 24, 2026.

For more information on the John Cabot House and other historical landmarks in Beverly visit *www.historicbeverly.net*.

(Heather Burns photo)

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Wilmington SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025

Wilmington High Roundup:

Cross country teams compete at league meet

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington High boys and girls cross country teams competed at the Middlesex League Meet on Monday, October 27 at the Woburn Country Club.

The boys team placed eighth with 213 points behind Lexington (47 points), Arlington (59 points), Reading (61 points), Winchester (126 points), Belmont (137 points), Melrose (147 points), and Woburn (195 points).

Cooper Hunt led the way for WHS, placing 27th in 16:26.05, a personal best and the second fastest 5k time in school history. Gavin Dong was 33rd in 16:37.21, also a PR and the fourth fastest time in school history.

Also in the top 50 overall for the Wildcats was Jake Cronin, who was 44th in 17:04.43, and David Dynan, who was 46th in 17:11.83, a personal-best time.

Rounding out Wilmington's top performers were Matt Lawler (63rd in 18:20.9), Michael Hao (65th in 18:31.77, a PR) and Evan Cummings (67th in 18:59.82).

The girls varsity team placed ninth with 269 points behind Lexington (29 points), Winchester (45 points), Arlington (105 points), Wakefield (141 points), Belmont (144 points), Melrose (151 points), Woburn (216 points), and Reading (217 points).

Pacing the way for the Wildcats were Charlotte Kiley, who was 20th in 19:45.7, Cayley Israelson, who finished 54th in 22:04.92, and Bella Zaya, who came home 55th in 22:10.64.

Other top Wilmington finishers included Tess Sullivan (62nd in 22:55.21), Katelyn LaPointe (78th in 26:54.77), Ciara O'Shea (79th in 27:06.92) and Summer Aliperta (80th in 28:53.28).

There was also a Freshman 3K race and a junior varsity 5K race for both the boys and the girls.

Next up for the Wildcats is the Frank Mooney Coaches Invitational at Wrentham on Saturday, November 1.

The Wilmington boys and girls finished up their dual meet season with a home meet against Watertown High School. Before the meet the team celebrated the accomplishments of the eight seniors, Conor Burns, Nathan Carriere, Jake Cronin, Evan Cummings, Gavin Dong, David Dynan, Cayley Israelson and Bella Zaya.

The boys team won by a score of 15-50 as they took the first nine places in the race. The boys were once again led by Dong, who ran an impressive time of 16:43.0. He was followed by Jake Cronin who ran an all-time best on Wilmington's home course with a time of 16:47.0.

Other top finishers were Hunt (third in 17:38.0), Dynan (fourth in 17:57), Lawler (fifth in 18:38), Michael Hao (sixth in 19:03) and Evan Cummings (seventh in 19:34).

The boys improved their record to 3 - 3 on the season.

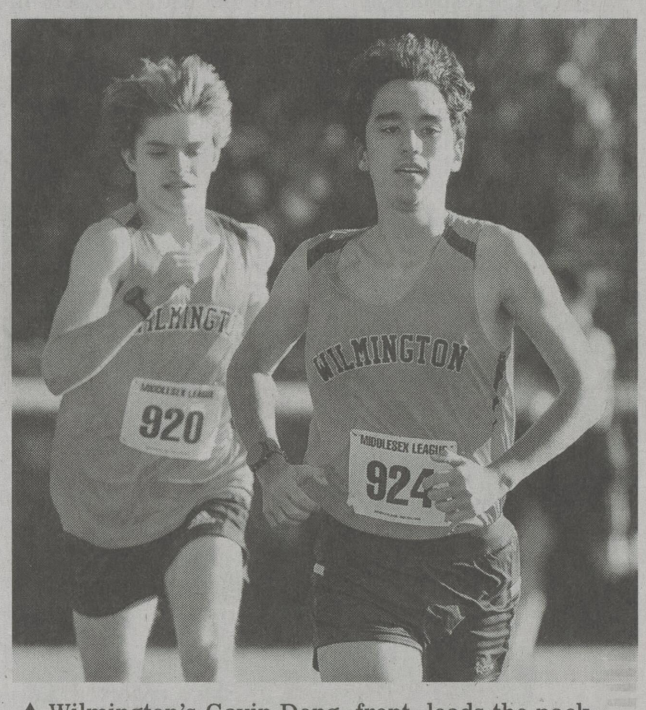
The girls team won by a score of 27-29 in a tight race.

The girls were led by Charlotte Kiley, who finished first in a time of 20:26.0.

Kiley was followed by Israelson (fourth in 21:44), Zaya (sixth in 22:15), Zoe Moses-Chen (seventh in 22:22), Avery Mercaldi (ninth in 22:43), Sullivan (10th in 23:11) and O'Shea (16th in 25:53).

The girls improved their record to 3-3 on the season.

▲ The Wilmington boys cross country team rolled to a 15-0 win over Watertown Tuesday in Wilmington. (Credit Image: James Thomas)



▲ Wilmington's Gavin Dong, front, leads the pack with teammate Jake Cronin close behind during Tuesday's cross country meet against Watertown. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

◀ Wilmington's Charlotte Kiley leads the pack during Tuesday's cross country meet against Watertown. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

▼ Wilmington's Casey Israelson during Tuesday's cross country meet in against Watertown. Israelson placed fourth in 21:44. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

GIRLS SOCCER

The Wilmington High girls soccer team battled Burlington to a scoreless tie last week.

Both teams exchanged great play from the midfield line throughout the entire game and created opportunities to score but both teams came short from doing so.

For the Wildcats, Ali McElligott and Cate Mac Donald played excellent. Defensively, Jillian Weinstein had a great game in the goal.

The game improves Wilmington's record to 8-3-4.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Wilmington High field hockey team ended the regular season with a 4-9-5 overall record after finishing the season with ties against Wakefield and Burlington.

In a 2-2 tie with Wakefield, sophomore Rita Bishop scored both goals in the second quarter (with 4:40 left and then with 11 seconds left).

Wakefield answered in the fourth with two goals.

Against Burlington, the 'Cats and Red Devils tied 1-1.

Burlington scored first with 7:54 left in the first quarter, but WHS answered with 1:35 left in the quarter on a goal by Siobhan DiCarlo).

▲ Junior Theodore Bryson (24) and senior Pat DeLucia (18) make a play during a recent game. (Joe Brown photo)

Wildcats fall just short

In another thriller, Wilmington High football edged by Melrose

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington High football team lost to Melrose on Friday at WHS by a 21-14 score.

The Red Hawks broke a 14-14 tie with 1:28 left in the third quarter and the Wildcats had two chances to tie the game including a final possession that started on the 20-yard line with 4:15 to go.

▲ Coach Joe Cavanaugh talks with quarterback Mark Holleran. (Doug Hastings photo)

After two first downs, the drive reached midfield before a Melrose interception ended the game in the final minute.

Wilmington's record dropped to 5-2 overall, but in both losses, the 'Cats had the ball with a chance to tie or win the game against solid teams, Burlington and Melrose.

WHS was the third-seeded team in the state's Div. 6 power rankings before the game and that number isn't likely to get any worse after a tight game with the Hawks (5-2), who were the 11 th seed in Div. 3 before the game.

Melrose, whose only losses have come against Burlington and Reading, took a 7-0 lead with its first drive of the game.

The Hawks marched 81 yards in nine plays and scored on a 1-yard run by quarterback Jack Feeney.

Feeney had two completions for 52 yards during the possession.

Wilmington responded with what has become a signature drive, long and punishing.

The Wildcats moved 77 yards in 15 plays in a possession that started midway through the first quarter and ended with 9:29 to go in the half.

WHS picked up four first downs on the way to the end zone and showed off most of its weapons along the way.

Junior quarterback Mark Holleran finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line. Cam Pereira tied the game with an extra point.

Ayden Bellevy, Pereira and junior Julian Martins all had first-down runs while senior Colin Allard had a great catch on third-and-19 play from the 28-yard line, outleaping two Hawk defenders for a 33-yard gain.

Melrose drove to Wilmington's 15-yard before turning the ball over on downs.

Wilmington wasn't able to do any damage with its next drive, punting from its own 17-yard line. Melrose took over at the 47 and took advantage of the short field, scoring on a 53-yard drive that took nine plays and ended with a 7-yard touchdown pass by Feeney with 18 seconds left in the half.

The Wildcats started the second half with another long possession, taking almost nine minutes to drive 76 yards in 15 plays and scoring on a 2-yard run by Martins on fourth-and-goal with 3:23 left in the third quarter.

Once again, WHS piled up four first downs before scoring, converting three times on third down.

Bellevy ran for three yards on third-and-one, Allard caught a pass for 13 yards on third-and-seven and Pereira had a 31-yard reception on third-and-nine to the Hawk 5-yard line.

Senior Cam Gray also caught a 12-yard pass from Holleran.

A big kickoff return by Melrose to the Wilmington 15-yard line set up the go-ahead score for the Hawks, another 1-yard run by Feeney with 1:28 left in the third.

The 'Cats punted away the next possession after four plays and Melrose effectively chopped more than seven minutes off of the clock with an 12-play drive that ended with a missed 30-yard field goal with 4:15 left.

Wilmington's Jacob Mc Cauley had a key pass deflection on second-and-11 from the 21-yard line to help force the field goal attempt.

The Wildcats had 4:15 to tie the score or even win the game starting at their 20-yard line.

Consecutive 9-yard runs by Holleran and Bellevy led to a first down before an 8-yard pass to Pat DeLucia on third-and-six from the 42 with 1:30 left.

That's where the drive stalled for Wilmington. After two incomplete passes and a short completion to Martins, Holleran threw deep on fourth down and was intercepted.

Wilmington is back on the field Friday for a road game in Watertown

Youth Hockey:

Bantam 1 team skates past Westwood 5–1

By RAYMOND MERCURI
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington Bantam 1 Wildcats continued their strong start to the season with a commanding 5-1 victory over Westwood on Saturday night at O'Brien Rink in Woburn to improve their record to 7-3.

With key players Stella Hardiman and Jaydn Onos out of the lineup, Wilmington called up Bantam 2 standouts Brayden Doe and Brian Doherty, both contributing solid minutes in the win.

Westwood struck first, slipping one past Wildcat goaltender Evan Jageler at 9:16.

Jageler had made the initial save and two rebounded shots, but there was too much pressure and fourth shot found its way in.

Wilmington answered late in the first.

With just 17.8 seconds on the clock, Jonny Raposo picked up a loose puck near them offensive blue line, cut down the boards, and fed a slick backhand pass to Brendan Cyr.

Cyr ripped a wrist shot from the top of the circle, beating the Westwood netminder low on the short side to tie the game 1-1.

The Wildcats grabbed the lead in the second period.

With 4:26 remaining, Cyr started the rush from behind his own net, stretching a cross ice feed to Matthew Fogg. Fogg found Grayson Lynch cutting through the middle, and Lynch made a dazzling move around a defender before burying a backhander for the go-ahead goal.

Wilmington extended the lead just 43 seconds into the third.

Fogg again factored in, setting up defenseman Matthew Riley, who swung a pass across the blue line to fellow defenseman Mason Desmond. Desmond walked in and fired a laser to the top corner glove side, putting the Wildcats ahead 3-1.

With 2:44 left in regulation, Cyr struck again.

After a defensive zone faceoff win by center Zach Stroud, Cyr broke free up the ice alongside winger Mason King. Using King as a screen, Cyr snapped a shot past the Westwood goalie to make it 4-1 Wilmington.

In a show of teamwork, Bantam 2 call up Brayden Doe gave up his final shift to let Cyr take one more run at a hat trick.

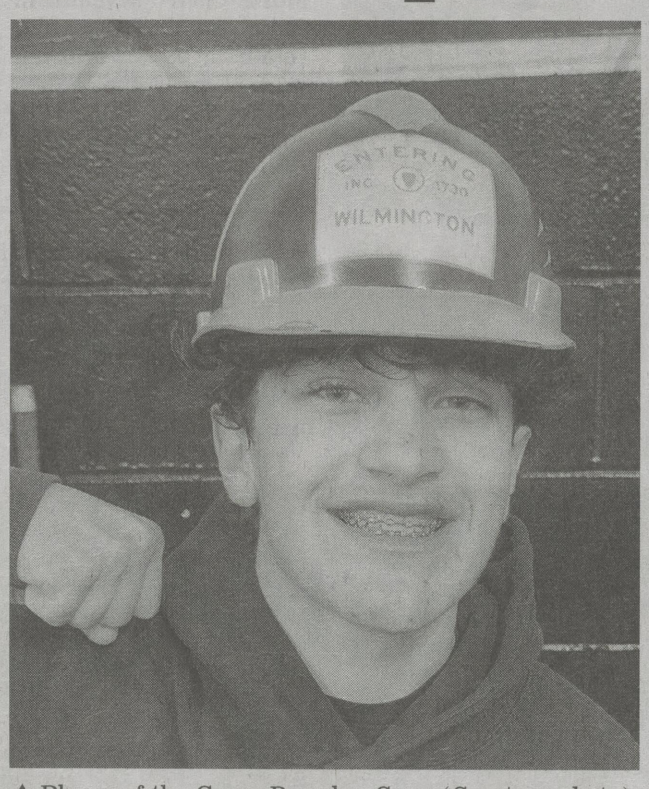
Cyr didn't waste the opportunity.

With 59 seconds left, Fogg chipped a loose puck around the boards, Desmond hit Stroud in defensive zone circle, and Stroud found Cyr streaking through center ice. Cyr beat a defender wide and finished the rush with his third of the game, sealing the 5-1 win.

Goaltender Evan Jageler was strong in net once again, anchoring the Wildcats with key saves early and steady play throughout.

Wilmington will look to stay hot in a rematch against Westwood next Saturday, November 2 at 8 p.m. in Burlington at the Ice Palace.

MIDGET 2'S TIE HAVERHILL



▲ Player of the Game Brendan Cyr (Courtesy photo)

In what can only be described as one of the wildest comebacks of the season, the Wilmington Midget 2 Wildcats erased a six-goal deficit to battle back and tie Haverhill 8-8 on Sunday.

The game started rough for Wilmington, who found themselves trailing 4-0 after just one period against a fast-skating Haverhill squad (4-3-1).

Things went from bad to worse early in the second, as Haverhill extended their lead to 6-0 before alternate captain Cody Mastronardi finally sparked the offense.

Mastronardi buried a quick wrister from the faceoff circle after Devin MacDonald collected a loose puck and fed Ryan Hudd, who set up Cody in the corner. That goal broke the ice and set the tone for what would become a furious rally.

Just over a minute later, Antonio Braga started a breakout from his own zone, flipping a perfect backhand pass to defenseman Colin O'Hearn. O'Hearn carried the puck coast to coast, splitting the defense and sniping the top corner to make it 6-2 with 11:07 remaining in the second.

Moments later, Mastronardi created more offense, this time in his own end, stealing the puck and threading a cross ice pass to Alternate Captain Johnny Cavanaugh near the blue line. Cavanaugh raced down the right wing, pulled the defender wide, and dished his trademark backdoor pass to captain Nate Murphy, who buried it to make it 6-3.

Haverhill responded quickly with a goal off a Wilmington turnover to go up 7-3, but the Wildcats answered just 50 seconds later. Cavanaugh cycled the puck low to Anthony DiZoglio behind the net, who found Murphy in the circle. Murphy sent a sharp wrister, high short side, his second of the night.

After two periods, Haverhill led 7-4, but Wilmington's momentum was building.

Early in the third, the Wildcats continued to roar back. With 13:52 remaining, Mastronardi hit Cavanaugh with a perfect feed, and the two combined for their signature give and go with Murphy, ending in Cavanaugh's finish to make it 7-5.

Moments later, Cam Bennett nearly pulled Wilmington within one after a setup from Cameron Jaynes, but Haverhill's goalie came up with a huge save. At 8:48, Haverhill temporarily restored their three-goal cushion, but the Wildcats weren't done yet.

O'Hearn blasted home his second of the game off a setup from MacDonald, picking the top corner glove side to make it 8-6. Then, defenseman Connor Jamieson went end to end after a feed from Ryan Hudd, dangling through multiple defenders before finishing to bring Wilmington within one, 8-7.

With 5:47 left in regulation, Cavanaugh delivered a thunderous hit in the offensive zone, forcing a turnover that landed on DiZoglio's stick. DiZoglio ripped a rocket from the blue line that found the top corner to complete the comeback and tie the game at 8-8, sending the Wilmington bench into celebration and coach Frank Cain into overload.

Defensively, Mickey Maroney was a steady force on the blue line throughout the comeback, breaking up odd man rushes and moving the puck cleanly out of the zone to spark transition chances. Mickey was instrumental in disrupting any type of offensive threat from Haverhill.

Winger Andrew Larosee had several good chances to score throughout the game. He was active on the ice, finding open spots and getting into good positions to take shots.

Although he couldn't convert his opportunities, Larosee was involved in the play and helped create pressure in the offensive zone Despite being shorthanded without Frank Cain, Tyler Boutiette, Noel Feliciano, and Colin Doherty, the Wildcats refused to quit. Their relentless effort turned what looked like a blowout into an instant classic.

"This group never stopped believing," said coach Frank Cain after the game. "They played with heart and pride in that Wilmington jersey. That was a character comeback," said coach Paul MacDonald.

Wilmington's next game is Sunday versus Mad Dogs at Chelmsford Forum.

Also followed by the district 10 Finals on Wednesday at 8 p.m. versus Stoneham Spartans.

Once again, Rams are at the top

Shawsheen football clinches at least share of league title

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Shawsheen Tech football team clinched at least a share of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference title and needs only a victory over Greater Lowell next week to own the championship outright after a 42-20 win against visiting Greater Lawrence on Friday night at Shawsheen.

The Reggies came in with impressive offensive numbers and showed some explosiveness with three touchdown passes, two for more than 50 yards, but the Rams had all of the answers behind an attack spearheaded by senior running back Jake Banda.

Banda had 153 yards and two touchdowns in the first half alone in a dominating performance.

Shawsheen is now 7-0 on the season.

The Rams led 21-8 at halftime before a wild third quarter that saw the teams combine for four touchdowns.

Shawsheen opened the second half with a 61-yard drive that took 10 plays and finished with a 10-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Adam Caruso to sophomore Nathan Smith with 5:24 left in the quarter.

Caruso had a 12-yard run and Smith had four rushes for 30 yards just before the score.

Junior Andrew Santo's fourth of six successful extra points made it 28-8.

Greater Lawrence answered with 2:48 remaining in the quarter when senior quarterback Zion Padilla hit junior Jayvin Mejia with a 15-yard touchdown pass. Ram senior Ralph Raymond helped stop the conversion to keep the score 28-14.

Sophomore Cameron Banda came up with an 87-yard kickoff return for a touchdown on the next play, actually slipping on the turf before gathering the ball and going the distance.

▲ Shawsheen Valley Tech beat Greater Lawrence Tech 42-20 on Friday night in Billerica, extending the Rams' winning streak to 21 games. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Two plays later, the Reggies were back in the end zone after a 66-yard touchdown pass from Padilla to sophomore Angel Gonzalez.

After three touchdowns in a span of 34 seconds, Shawsheen put the game away with a 51-yard drive that took seven plays and ended with Banda's 2-yard run behind a nice block by senior James Tildsley.

Banda did most of the heavy lifting on the possession with a 24-yard reception on third-and-15 and three carries for 30 yards before the score.

Banda started the scoring in the first quarter with a 36-yard touchdown run. His 24-yard run helped set up the score.

After back-to-back sacks by Ram sophomore Landon Benoit forced a punt, the Rams scored again early in the second quarter after a 44-yard touchdown run by Banda. A 20-yard keeper by Caruso set up the score.

Shawsheen made it 21-0 with 1:12 to go in the half when Smith took a direct snap and ran 15 yards for a touchdown.

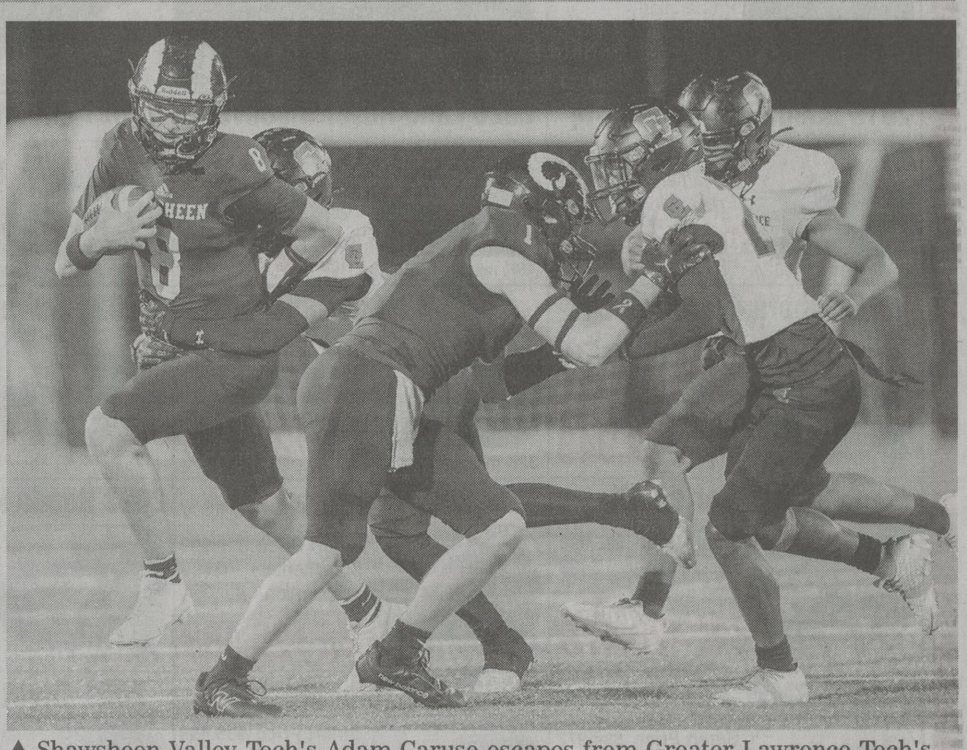
The 63-yard drive took eight plays and was a memorable sequence for Smith, who caught a 13-yard pass from Caruso and had runs of 12 and 11 yards just before the touchdown.

Greater Lawrence answered just before halftime, scoring on a 54-yard touchdown pass to Mejia as the first half clock expired.

Junior Jizziah Herring caught the 2-point conversion pass to make it 21-8.

The Reggies scored all three of their passing touchdown after Ram senior Dyllon Pratt, a standout receiver and cornerback, left the game with an injury.

Defensively, senior Nathan Malandain had a solid game with a big tackle early in the game and also recovered a fumble in the first quarter.



▲ Shawsheen Valley Tech's Adam Caruso escapes from Greater Lawrence Tech's Adrian Arias to avoid a sack during Friday's football game in Billerica. The Rams won 42-20. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

◀ Shawsheen Valley Tech's Nathan Smith (15) runs past Greater Lawrence Tech's Adrian Arias (2) during Friday's football game in Billerica. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Shawsheen Tech Roundup:

Volleyball wins third straight league title

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Shawsheen Tech volleyball team beat Greater Lawrence by a 3-1 score before dropping a non-league match to Billerica 3-0 to wrap up the regular season last week.

The Rams ended up with a record of 11-8 overall.

Shawsheen was seeded 28th in the most recent MIAA power rankings for Div. 3.

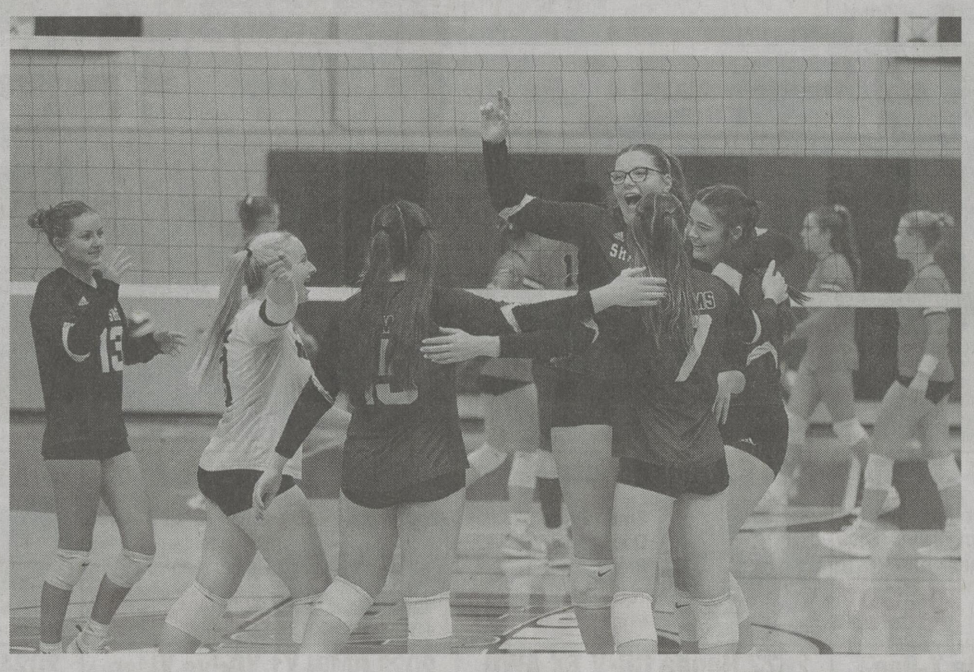
Shawsheen won its third straight Commonwealth Athletic Conference with its win over Greater Lawrence.

Francesca Reardon led the Rams with a double-double, tallying 26 kills and 17 digs.

Isabella DiSalvo added 19 digs and Maura Krueger had 31 assists.

Also playing well for the Rams was Olivia Quinn and Paige Nickerson.

The set scores against the Reggies were 25-19, 25-27, 25-22 and 25-21.



▲ The Shawsheen Tech girls volleyball team celebrates a point. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

▲ Groton-Dunstable's Liam Acucena, left, sidesteps a slide tackle by Shawsheen Valley Tech's Jack Morin during a recent match in Billerica. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

CROSS COUNTRY

At the Commonwealth Athletic Conference meet at Greater Lowell on Saturday, both the Shawsheen Tech girls and boys cross country teams finished fourth overall.

The first three finishers for Shawsheen's boys were Joe McKenna in 18:33, Lucas Alessi in 19:32 and Alonzo Rankin in 19:37.

For the Shawsheen girls, Eloise Krochune was the first Ram in 23:40, Gracie Gaffney was second in 24:52 and Ellie Matheson was the third Shawsheen finisher in 26:19.

BOYS SOCCER

The Shawsheen Tech boys soccer team certainly made things interesting down the stretch.

Needing wins badly to qualify for the state playoffs, the Rams had matches with Dracut and Groton-Dunstable last week, battling the Middies to a 0-0 draw and falling to Groton-Dunstable, 1-0.

The Rams outshot Dracut by a 15-9 margin, but could not break the scoreless draw.

On Monday, Shawsheen beat Greater Lowell, 2-1.

Davide Vitale and John Galacia had the goals for Shawsheen while David Viverios was credited with an assist.

Shawsheen's record was 5-8-2 overall heading into the final match of the regular season, a Tuesday contest at KIPP Academy in Lynn.

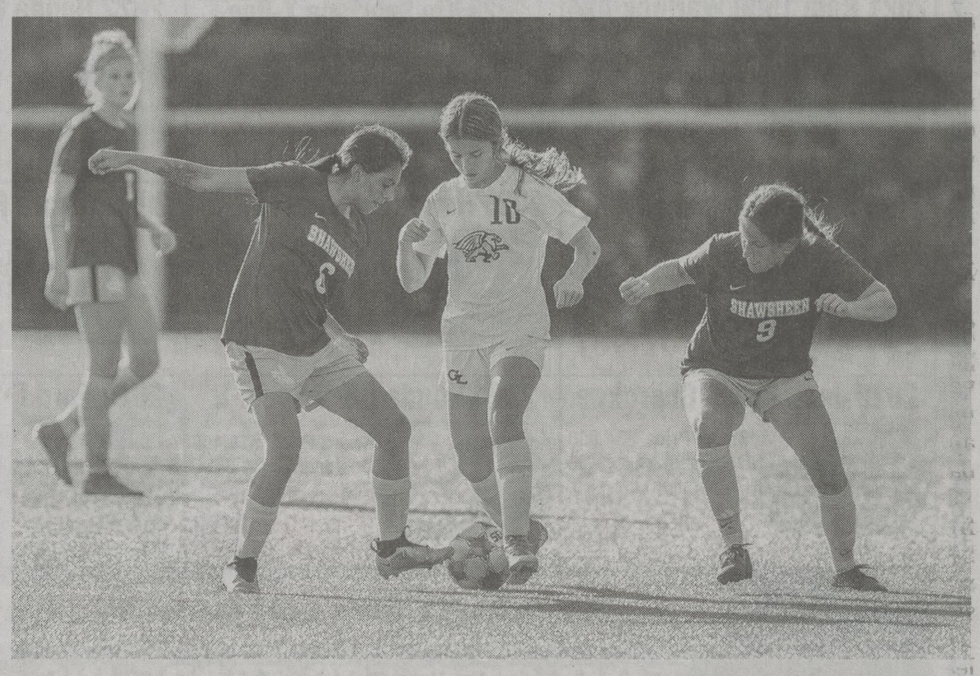
As of Oct. 24, the Rams were seeded 53rd in the Div. 3 power rankings and likely to miss the state tournament despite a valiant charge to close out the regular season.

GIRLS SOCCER

With a strong finish to the regular season, the Shawsheen Tech girls soccer team made a strong push to make the state tournament and actually qualified for the state's vocational tournament.

Unfortunately, because of some confusion with the team registration process, the Rams will not be playing in the voke semifinals. Shawsheen coach Doug Michaud said new registration requirement dates were missed and the MIAA didn't allow for any misunderstanding of its new protocols.

On the field, the Rams beat Whittier Tech on Oct. 16 by a 2-1 score and then defeated Nashoba Tech, 3-1. On Saturday, Shawsheen wrapped up the regular season with a 5-1 loss against Dracut.



▲ Laylah Gomez, left, of Shawsheen Tech fights for the ball with Greater Lowell Tech's Kailynn Oliveira as Tabby Woodward joins the play during a recent game. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

Kenzie Weatherbee had the Shawsheen goal, her first goal of the year.

"We did end the season in second place tied with Greater Lowell in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference," Michaud said. "My team is graduating seven senior starters, captain Ava Noble, captain Maria Cafaro, Kenzie Parent, Shea Kelley, Cera Salter, Jailyn DiNuccio, and Kristal Wells. They are going to be tough to replace. A great mix of defense, midfielders, and forwards."

The Rams were seeded 54th in Div. 3.

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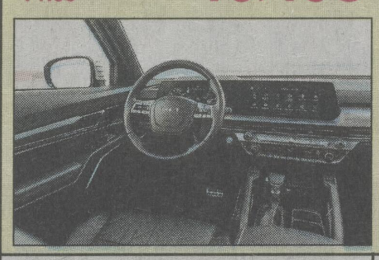

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2025 Kia Seltos EX

Smart Price $25,998
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Preparation
Total Price $26,479
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Preparation
Total Price $26,498
11K miles #16976A

2023 Honda HR-V EX-L AWD

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Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $27,098
42K miles #16773A

2022 Kia Telluride LX AWD

Smart Price $26,999
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $27,498
66K miles #16967A

2023 Mitsubishi Outlander

Smart Price $29,980
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $30,479
46K miles #16534A

2023 BMW 330 XDrive

Smart Price $34,977
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $35,476
40K miles #16930A

2023 Kia Telluride SX-P

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2021 Toyota Highlander

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2022 Toyota Highlander Ltd.

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108K mi. #H260241

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Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $13,997
97K mi. #H2602201

2018 Volvo XC90 T5 AWD

Smart Price $18,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $18,997
91K mi. #H2601932

2013 Honda Civic LX Sdn.

Smart Price $12,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $13,497
67K mi. #H2517211

2018 Subaru Outback Ltd.

Smart Price $14,798
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $15,297
107K mi. #H260322

2018 Jeep Wrangler Unlt.

Smart Price $22,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $22,997
60K mi. #H260407

2021 Subaru Forester Prem.

Smart Price $22,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $23,497
34K mi. #H250621

2024 Honda HRV LX FWD

Smart Price $23,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $23,997
14K mi. #H251671

2024 Honda Civic Sport Sedan

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Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $24,497
10K mi. #H2602621

2020 Cadillac XT4 AWD Prem.

Smart Price $24,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $24,997
41K mi. #H260312

2018 Toyota Tacoma Dbl. Cab

Smart Price $26,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $26,997
107K mi. #H260216

2021 Ram 1500 Warlock 4x4

Smart Price $26,798
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $27,297
46K mi. #HP7947

2023 Kia Sportage X-line

Smart Price $26,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $27,497
25K mi. #H251654

2022 Honda CR-V EX AWD

Smart Price $27,798
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $28,297
22K mi. #H260321

2023 BMW X1 XDrive XLine

Smart Price $30,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $30,997
24K mi. #H260068

2024 Honda CR-V EX AWD

Smart Price $31,698
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $32,197
3K mi. #HP7978

2024 Honda CR-V Sport Hybrid

Smart Price $31,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $32,497
29K mi. #H260169

2023 Honda Passport EX-L

Smart Price $32,298
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $32,797
29K mi. #H260177

2022 Toyota Rav 4 Limited

Smart Price $33,498
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $33,997
32K mi. #H260188

2022 Honda Pilot SE AWD

Smart Price $33,698
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $34,197
32K mi. #H251841

2023 Honda Odyssey Sport

Smart Price $34,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $35,497
40K mi. #H251801

2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee

Smart Price $34,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $35,497
42K mi. #H251874

2025 Honda CR-V Sport-L

Smart Price $35,499
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $35,998
23K mi. #H260252

2022 Ford F-150 XLT FX4

Smart Price $35,998
Documentary $499
Preparation
Total Price $36,497
31K mi. #H251327

2023 Acura TLX SH AWD

Smart Price $36,498
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Total Price $36,997
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OBITUARIES

George W. Hooper Sr.

Worked for the Wilmington Police Dept.

George W. Hooper Sr., passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

George was born in Everett to Elizabeth (Betty) Hooper-Grebb on June 2, 1939. He was the brother of the late Clarence A. Hooper and the beloved grandson of Arnold and Agnes Scurrah.

As a young boy, George spent much of his time with his grandparents, helping them by shining shoes to assist with daily expenses. He often spoke fondly of those days, recalling them as some of his favorite childhood memories.

At the age of 14, George met the love of his life, Alice (McCarthy) Hooper, of Chelsea. The two were married five years later, in 1958, and moved to Wilmington in 1969, where they raised their three boys — George, Gregg, and Glenn.

George and Alice were devoted parents, always supporting their boys' interests and activities. Whether it was scouting trips, where George made sure everyone had the best meals, or driving the bus for the Wilmington Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps, George was always there, fully involved and proud to help.

Early in his career, George worked in the construction field with a local asphalt paving company, helping to install sidewalks throughout the surrounding communities. He later served in law enforcement with the MBTA Police Department, as well as the Chelsea and Wilmington police departments. George then transitioned to the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, where he held several positions over the years before retiring.

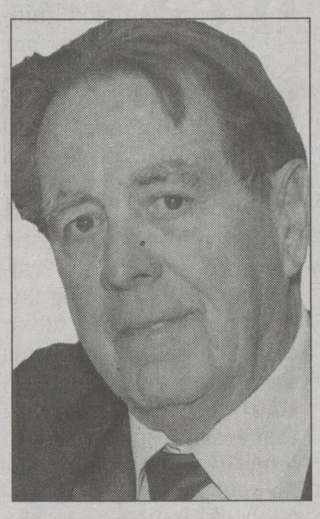
George was deeply committed to serving the Wilmington community. He served for many years as a member and director of Wilmington Elderly Housing Authority, he served as chairman of the Town Democratic Committee, he was an active volunteer with the Wilmington Community Fund and their annual walkathon, and later served as a member, then chairman for the Wilmington Finance Committee, helping to review and manage the town's annual budget.

George was also honored to serve as a selectman for the Town of Wilmington, a role he took great pride in.

George was a lifetime member of the Wilmington Knights of Columbus, where he was a Past Grand Knight, George was also a member of the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks, proud to be part of such a dedicated and compassionate organization.

Later in their lives, George and Alice were snowbirds spending the winters at their home in Sebring, Florida where they made many lifelong friends.

George was predeceased by his wife, Alice, of 63 years; and he leaves behind his sons George W. Hooper 2nd and his wife Michelle of Wilmington, Gregg W. Hooper of Conway, SC, and Glenn W. Hooper and his wife Kathleen of Abington; his cherished granddaughter Julianne Hooper and her fiancé Shane Johnson of Dedham and grandson George W. Hooper 3rd and his wife Emma of Anchorage, Alaska.



He is also survived by many dear family and friends who will deeply miss his kindness, humor, and generosity.

Family and friends are welcome to gather for Visiting Hours on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Nichols Funeral home, 187 Middlesex Ave, Wilmington. A Service to celebrate George's life will take place at the Funeral Home on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. followed by a burial in Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, donations in George's memory may be made to the MSPCA, Wilmington Community Fund or a charity of one's choice.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at *www.nicholsfuneralhome.com*

Carol Anne (Norcross) Frost

Researcher for Time Magazine in NYC

Carol Anne (Norcross) Frost, age 97, of Wilmington, and Fryeburg, Maine, passed peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on Oct. 22, 2025.

The youngest of three daughters of Evelyn (Mc Glone) and George Henry Norcross, she was born Oct. 13, 1928, in Nantucket.

While attending Nantucket High School she worked as a telephone operator alongside her sister, Phyllis, at the Downyflake Restaurant. After graduating high school at the top of her class, she attended Boston University where she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism in 1950.

Her sister, Evelyn, encouraged Carol and her college roommate to move to New York City where she landed her dream job as a researcher for Time Life Magazine in Rockefeller Center.

On Oct. 17, 1951, she married the late William (Bill) P. Frost, Jr. who she met in Nantucket when he was working a summer job as a lifeguard. They were wed at the church in Ridge, MD where Bill's uncle was a priest.

They lived in Ridgewood, NJ until 1955, then moved with their two young daughters to Wilmington, where they continued growing their family.

While raising her six daughters, Carol, with her love of the written word, stayed true to her journalism background and kept a personal journal for decades and often contributed to *The Wilmington Town Crier*. A lifelong Girl Scout, she worked at Camp Merrymeeting, now called Camp Maude Eaton, in Andover where she encouraged her camp counselors and campers.

An excellent swimmer, she taught all her own kids and many of the grandkids to swim, as well as countless Girl Scouts.

She was a member the Piscataqua Pioneers, a genealogy society for whom she helped write one of their most recent publications about the history of pre-revolutionary war settlers.

She was her husband's biggest cheerleader with his woodturning avocation and befriended many craftsmen around New England alongside Bill.

She had a keen interest in politics, was a member of the League of Women Voters and involved with the Student Government program at Wilmington High School.

She loved games and was always eager to beat her competition. Her game playing skills were legendary and she happily won hundreds of games of cards, dominoes, and board games played with her friends, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A huge football fan, she helped her college team by tutoring some of the football players who were at risk of being benched because of their grades, and she was an avid fan of the New England Patriots.

She was a champion skillet thrower at the Fryeburg Fair where she and her friends met every year to bet at the horse races.

She enjoyed camping, canoeing, skiing, hiking, swimming, spending time with her family, and she loved playing bridge.

She was an avid reader and had long conversations about books and authors with her daughters. Carol read several newspapers each day. She followed the stock market with Bill, often competing with him to see who could pick the best stocks.

She was young at heart and loved playing with her grandkids and their kids, too, often seen playing with the youngest attendees at family gatherings making forts under tables and banging pans for music.

Carol was intelligent, resourceful and a wonderful teacher. When her children were in school, most Saturday mornings were spent at the Wilmington Public Library, with all her daughters in tow. Whenever anyone had a question she couldn't answer right away, she'd find the answer eventually.

She made learning fun and played letter, word and number games with the girls on the long trips to visit family in Connecticut, New York, Virginia, Florida, Nantucket, and their regular trips to Fryeburg.

She and Bill traveled extensively with family and friends. She lived a good and full life and left the world a better place for having been here. She will be dearly missed but her sage advice and words of wisdom will long be remembered by her loved ones.

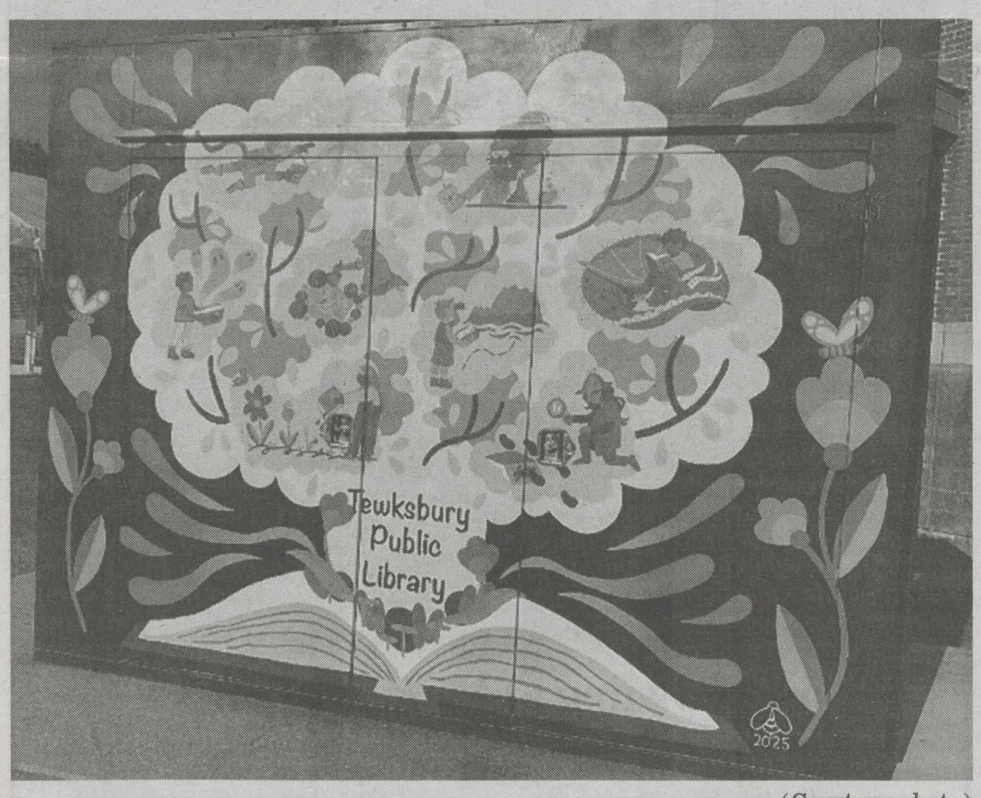
Carol is survived by her brother-in-law and his wife, Charles and Kay Frost of New York City and North Haven, NY; daughters Carol Frost of Winchester, Sally Whitten of Fryeburg, Maine, Sue Frost of Fryeburg, Maine, Jula Frost of Austin, TX, Laura Tuite and husband Peter of Susquehanna, PA, and Nancy Canty and husband Jim of Woburn; 17 grandchildren: Craig, Julie, Nick and Melanie, Erica and Dan, Mike and Marissa, Stephanie and Jon, Jeanne and Ricky, Kallie and Mitchell, Maeve, Peter, and McKenna; 13 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Carol was predeceased by two sons-in-law, Gary Whitten of Fryeburg, Maine, and Stephen Jette of Eliot, Maine.

A private family service will be held with arrangements made by Nichols Funeral Home, Wilmington, and burial at Old North Cemetery in Lancaster.

Donations in Carol's memory can be made to The Father McKenna Center, 19 Eye Street, Washington, DC 20001-1425, or online at *fathermckennacenter.org*, or to your favorite charity.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at *www.nicholsfuneralhome.com*



(Courtesy photo)

New mural debuts at Tewksbury Public Library

TEWKSBURY — Tucked away in the backyard of the Tewksbury Public Library (TPL) you'll find a lot to explore: the Community Garden full of fresh organic produce and a home to pollinators, a performance platform lit up with concerts and events, and native trees that will shade future generations of library visitors.

New to this scene is an intricately designed portrayal of community, nature, and the timeless enchantment of storytelling that ties together this space's splendor in a magnificently bright mural.

Tewksbury artist Melissa Santos of Little Honey Illustrations worked closely with TPL staff throughout the spring and summer to design a beautiful mural now featured on the building's generator box. Melissa worked to bring together the themes of storytelling, gardening, and community when designing the mural.

The artist explains her process: "...as a melting pot of inspiration from the works of many amazing artists filtered through my lens of creativity, art style, and skillset."

When discussing the new piece, Melissa goes on to explain that the images seen in the mural are intended to be "...a relatable and fun experience for people of all ages and backgrounds."

To bring the central themes of the mural to life, Melissa created a central image that literally takes root in the form of a tree, described by the artist as "...a giant glowing tree coming from an open book" that takes inspiration from Mother Nature and The Book of Knowledge.

Melissa elaborates that "all public libraries are a source of community and a welcoming place that is meant to nurture, educate, and provide respite for people of all walks of life. What better symbolism for a sanctuary like that than a mother tree that is meant to nurture and connect younger trees together, and a book of knowledge meant to educate and spark creativity and curiosity for everyone who reads?"

Featured among the tree image are a cast of characters interacting with various book genres.

In re-counting her own experiences immersed in stories, Melissa describes "...following the footsteps of detectives, sitting beside sleeping dragons, and floating in space surrounded by celestial bodies..." brought to life by the power of the written word.

The artist explains that when creating this piece, she was "...heavily inspired by these narrative experiences and wanted to bring that feeling to life by having all types of people interacting with the specific genres of their stories."

"One of my messages behind this piece is that we are all connected by our stories. Every stranger has a story to tell and to hear, and the bigger the differences between us, the richer the opportunities are to learn from each other," said Melissa. "I hope when someone looks at the mural they see themselves in the characters and their favorite genres and realize they are part of a whole community bigger than themselves."

You can visit the mural by following the pathways leading from TPL's parking lot into the backyard.

To learn more about Melissa's artwork and Little Honey Illustrations, please visit *https://www.littlehoneyillustrations.com/*.

Additional information about artwork you can explore at TPL can be found at *https://www.tewksburypl.org/about-us/pages/art-tpl*. From sculpted pieces by Mico Kaufman to modern murals in the Teen and Children's Rooms by Eyeformation, there is art all around you while you browse the shelves.

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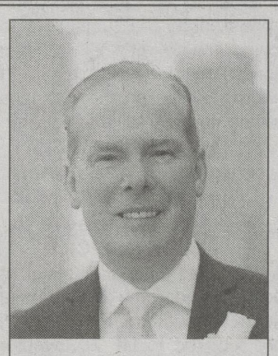
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Healey-Driscoll Administration announces updated domestic violence law enforcement guidelines

FALL RIVER – In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, in collaboration with the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking (GCSADVHT), announced comprehensive updates to domestic violence law enforcement guidelines, reflecting current best practices and evidence-based approaches to protecting victims and holding offenders accountable.

These guidelines provide law enforcement agencies with clear operational instruction for responding to domestic violence, and reflect changes signed into law by Governor Healey's An Act to prevent abuse and exploitation, including expanding the definition of abuse to include the term "coercive control."

"These updated guidelines will make sure our law enforcement officers have everything they need to be prepared to protect and support victims and survivors of domestic violence," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful to all of the survivors who bravely shared their stories to help us update these guidelines in a way that centers on victims and survivors."

"These updated guidelines represent a significant step forward in our commitment to protecting victims and survivors of domestic violence," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking. "By providing law enforcement with clear, evidence-based protocols and enhanced training resources, we're ensuring that every response is both effective and trauma-informed. This collaborative effort between the Council's subcommittee and local agencies will ultimately save lives and help break the cycle of domestic violence in our communities."

"I fully support the implementation of these updated Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Guidelines," said interim Public Safety and Security Secretary Susan W. Terrey. "Our law enforcement officers are often the first responders in these critical situations, and they deserve the most current tools and protocols to protect victims and hold offenders accountable. These guidelines will ensure consistency across all our departments while prioritizing victim safety and officer effectiveness. This is essential work that will strengthen our entire public safety response system."

The updated guidelines were developed by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EO PSS), the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) and the GCSADVHT in close collaboration with victim advocacy organizations, local law enforcement, legal experts and community stakeholders, to address critical gaps in domestic violence response and incorporate lessons learned from recent cases and evolving research in the field. The guidelines emphasize that the focus of police officers responding to a domestic violence call should be on victim safety, followed closely by offender accountability.

Key updates include:

• Expanded legal definitions: Adds "coercive control" to the statutory definition of abuse under Chapter 209A to address non-physical tactics such as isolation, intimidation, and economic control.

• Enhanced dispatcher protocols: Clarifies 911 response procedures, prioritizing caller safety, two-officer dispatch, and accurate incident documentation.

• Victimology and trauma awareness: Expands guidance on partner-inflicted brain injury and trauma-informed response practices.

• Mandated reporting and child support: Updates procedures to strengthen support for children exposed to domestic violence and ensure compliance with reporting laws.

• Strangulation and stalking: Expands direction on strangulation response, documentation, and medical referral, and adds new information on stalking behaviors and risk assessment.

• Firearms law updates: Incorporates changes under the 2024 Modernizing Firearm Laws Act related to seizure, surrender, and risk-based response.

• Resource integration: Adds updated resource lists and hyperlinks throughout the document to improve access to services for both officers and victims.

• High-risk case model: Introduces a coordinated Domestic Violence High-Risk Model to strengthen interagency communication and enhance victim protection.

The updated guidelines are available to all Massachusetts law enforcement agencies and integrated into the MPTC's 2025-2026 in-service training program for veteran officers.

"I am very proud of the Assessment and Response Subcommittee's work. They took a collaborative approach to develop much-needed updates to the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Guidelines. These updated guidelines will strengthen our law enforcement response to domestic violence and help us continue building bridges with local law enforcement agencies," said Vilma Uribe, Executive Director of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking.

Individuals experiencing domestic violence can access resources through:

• SafeLink, Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline: (877) 785-2020

• Statewide Resources Page

For more information about the updated guidelines or domestic violence resources, contact Vilma Uribe at *gcsadvht@mass.gov*.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Ray Derderian of 7 King St. in Wilmington MA, 01887 who is the last registered owner of a 2017 Hyundai Sonata Vin# 5NPE34AF144480913 that this vehicle will be sold at auction on or about 11-23-25 at Forrest Towing Inc., 600 Main Street, Wilmington MA. The vehicle will be auctioned to recover towing and storage charges that are past due.

251147 10/30, 11/6,12/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Wilmington High School
Joanne M. Benton Auditorium
159 Church Street

251119 10/30,11/13/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. MI25P5431GD

In the matter of:
Gesson-Grand Pierre
Of: Tewksbury, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Mass Dept of Mental Health of Westborough, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Gesson-Grand Pierre** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/13/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 16, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

251143 10/30/25

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LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
SELECT BOARD

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025** by the Select Board for the application of Mastoran Corporation/LBK, LLC dba Burger King #8855, property located at 280 Lowell Street, to amend their Common Victualer License to operate twenty-four (24) hours.

Frank J. West, Sr., Chair
Select Board

251156 10/30/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P5024EA

Estate of: Mary A Biagiotti
Date of Death: 08/29/2018

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Richard P Biagiotti of Tewksbury MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Richard P Biagiotti of Tewksbury MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/24/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 27, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

251159 10/30/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121, Room 9, Glen Road on **Wednesday, NOVEMBER 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the following application:

CASE # 11-25
21 WESTDALE AVE
MAP 73 PARCEL 29

APPLICANT:
STEVEN BALSAVICH

SPECIAL PERMIT PURSUANT TO 6.1.6.4 TO BUILD AN ADDITION CONSISTING OF A NEW KITCHEN, MASTER BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOMS AND AN OFFICE. R20 ZONE WILL BE 10.4 FEET FROM LOT LINE

251151 10/30, 11/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P5520EA

Estate of:
Louise Woodford
Date of Death: 05/29/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Peter J Woodford of Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Peter J Woodford of Wilmington MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/18/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

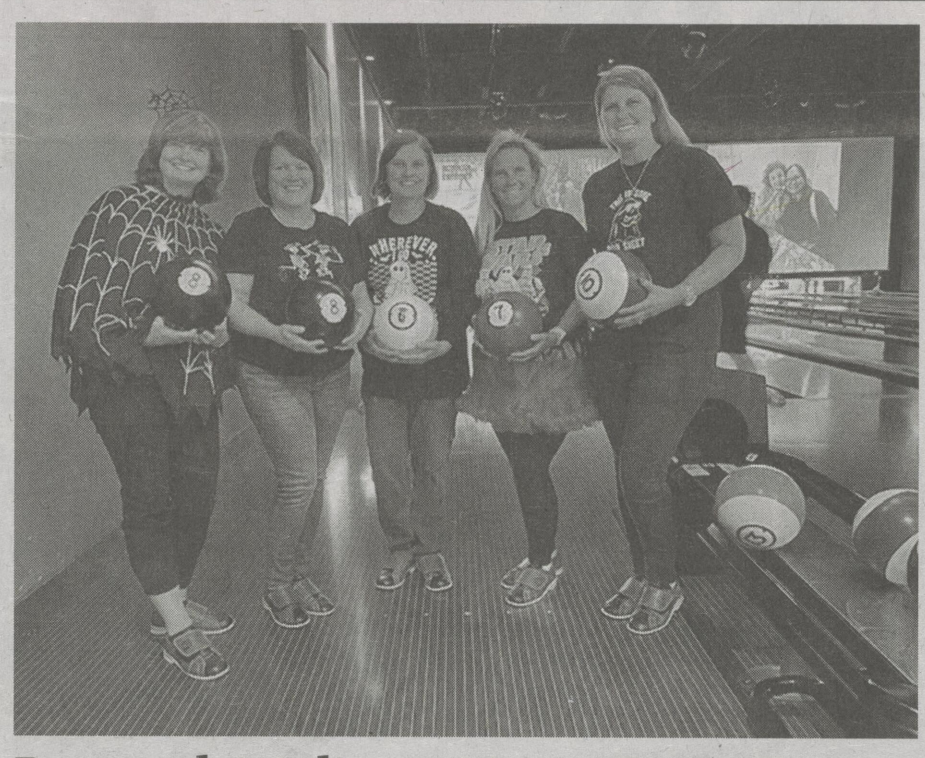
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 21, 2025

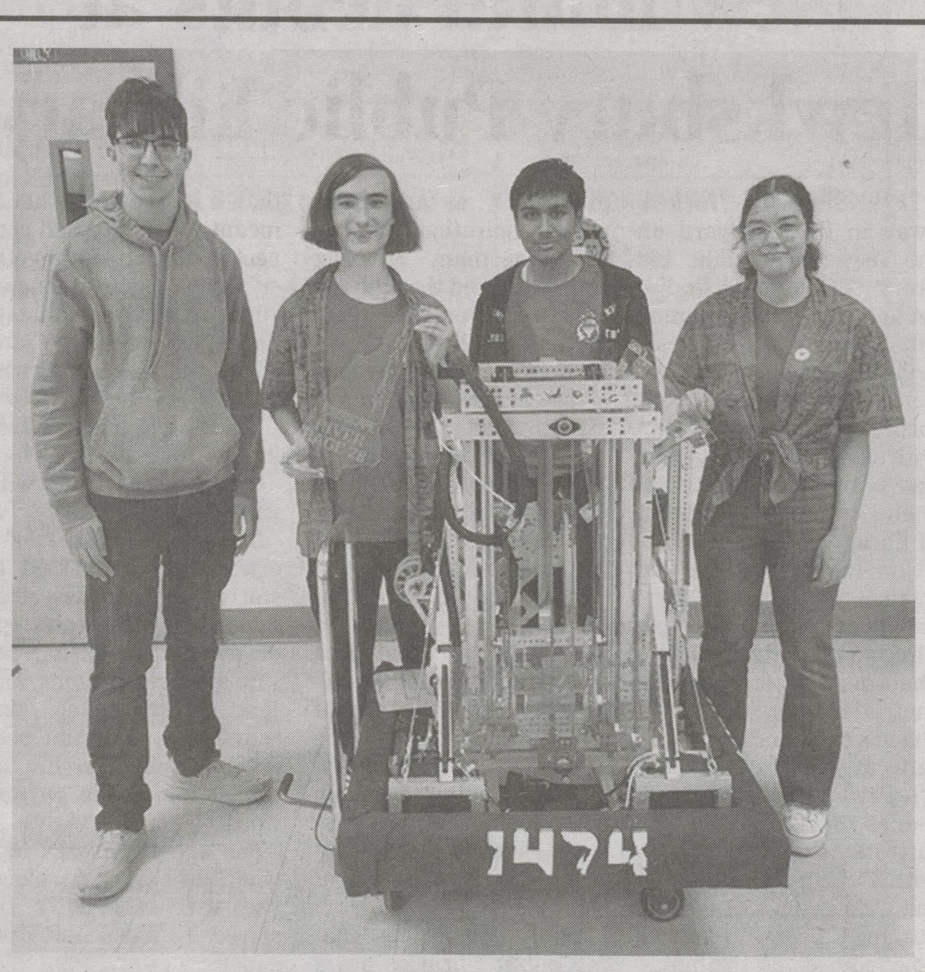
Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

251160 10/30/25



Boos and Bowling at Wamesit Lanes

Tewksbury residents Jen Moynihan, Martha Duffett, Sue Panilaitis, Jenn Griffin and Grace Naghibi enjoyed a night of Boos and Bowling at Wamesit Lanes to support the One Wish Project, an organization that brings birthday wishes to children in area shelters. (Paige Impink photo)



Titans Robotics Team places second

The TMHS Titans robotics team was excited to place second as part of a successful alliance at RiverRage 28 held at Manchester Memorial High School in Manchester, NH this past weekend. Pictured are Dylan Warren, Donovan Conway, Chatan Maduvu, and Celeste Webb from the team. (Courtesy photo)

Healey-Driscoll Administration opens application for schools to apply for funding to update time-out practices

EVERETT — The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that it is accepting applications for a new $3 million grant designed to help schools implement updated regulations regarding time-out practices that will take effect in August 2026. This competitive grant program, administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), is designed to help schools and districts build more inclusive learning environments, safeguard student rights and ensure consistency with state and federal expectations.

Time out is a behavioral support strategy used in schools to help students calm. The administration proposed changes to regulations about the use of time-out practices in schools, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved changes in May. The updated regulations aim to create safer and more supportive school environments by reducing the use of time-out rooms and increasing transparency and communication between schools and families.

"This grant is a targeted support in response to the updated regulations," said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. "We want to equip schools and districts to reduce the use of time-out rooms and help programs develop strategies that work best for their specific learning environments and individual students."

"We're eager to support districts and schools as they update their practices surrounding the use of time out," said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez. "We know that students learn best when they learn alongside their peers, and we want school staff to have a variety of strategies to help students deescalate."

This grant seeks to provide districts and schools with resources to train staff in de-escalation strategies, strengthen oversight and reduce schools' reliance on time-out rooms. Awardees could use the funding to support comprehensive, high-quality professional development on trauma-informed teaching, positive behavior interventions, and alternatives to the use of time-out rooms, as well as to introduce and integrate restorative practices to build positive relationships, resolve conflicts, and create a sense of belonging among students. Further, the grant would enable districts to establish, build the capacity of, and empower behavioral support teams within each school to assess, plan, and implement individualized interventions for students and foster collaboration with parents, guardians and community members.

This new grant program builds on the work DESE has been doing to reduce or eliminate the use of exclusionary time-out rooms and increase the amount of time that students spend learning with their peers. During the 2020-2021 school year, DESE engaged with a broad range of stakeholders in a process that resulted in guidance being issued in 2021. DESE has also increased its monitoring of time-out practices in schools and previously awarded $1.5 million in grants to help districts reduce or eliminate the inappropriate use of time-out practices.

Any Massachusetts public school district (including charter schools), collaborative, or approved special education program that uses time out is eligible to apply. A total of approximately $3 million is available, and recipients are each eligible for up to $50,000. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Nov. 13.

▲Officials from AAF International hosted contractors and customers from throughout New England last week, talking about the importance of proper air filtration across a broad range of industries and the impact the right filtration can have in times of wildfire smoke and excessive air pollution. (from l to r): Richard Mcauliffe (PP Manufacturing Corporation), Haley Scott (PP Manufacturing Corporation), Shaun Maloney (AAF/NAS), Stacey Lemelin (AAF/NAS), and Arlene DiMeco (AAFo NAS). (Courtesy photo)

AAF International Wilmington branch hosts Open House celebration

WILMINGTON — AAF International's Wilmington distribution branch welcomed local HVAC contractors and customers for weeklong Open House celebration.

AAF Team showcases complete line of air filtration and HVAC supplies while talking about the importance of advanced air filtration in times of wildfire smoke and air pollution.

Who: AAF International, a member of the Daikin Group, and global leader in air filtration solutions; local customers, and commercial HVAC contractors.

What: A weeklong celebration breakfast event.

In 2024 AAF International acquired Northeast Air Solutions, located at 7 Lopez Road in Wilmington. This week AAF officials are inviting customers and contractors from throughout the region with special offers on air filters, as well as to showcase the complete line air filtration products, HVAC accessories, and ductwork materials offered at this location.

"Filtration is critical for many of the hi-tech industries throughout New England that count on clean air for optimal operation, such as semiconductors, healthcare, and data centers," says Jack Barton, Regional Branch Operations Manager - AAF International.

AAF Boston, located in Wilmington, focuses on providing architects, engineers, and building owners with innovative products for their air distribution and filtration needs. This location supplies replacement air filters and HVAC accessories to the service contractor market as well as mechanical and sheet metal materials to contractors working in new construction.

"Another major concern is air quality and using the right air filtration in homes and businesses to effectively filter out contaminants from severe pollution and wildfire smoke," continues Barton. It is vital that our customers have the right products at their disposal to effectively educate their customers on the importance of the indoor air they breathe."

AAF Boston serves all of Massachusetts, including the greater Boston area, as well as Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The facility employs 22 individuals with another six at a second AAF location in Braintree.

About AAF

Headquartered in Louisville, Ky., AAF International is one of the world's largest manufacturers of air filtration solutions, developing and manufacturing a wide variety of solutions that are designed to remove and control airborne particulates and gaseous contaminants in commercial, industrial, cleanroom, transportation and nuclear power applications.

Founded in 1921, AAF has grown into an international standard for innovative products that bring clean air to life for billions of people throughout the globe. *www.aafintl.com*

About the Daikin Group

Daikin Industries, Ltd., a global Fortune 1000 company established in 1924, pioneers high quality, energy efficient heating, cooling, ventilation, air purification and low global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerant technology that brings people comfort — at home and at work. The world's number one air conditioning company, Daikin operates in 170 countries with approximately 100,000 employees. In the United States, Daikin proudly employs more than 22,000 workers who engineer, design and assemble industry leading products across 25 advanced manufacturing sites.

Daikin serves Americans coast-to-coast through its nine Research and Development centers, 400+ distribution points and a nationwide network of local contractors who trust and choose Daikin every day. *https://www.daikin.com/corporate*

Horribles Parade on this little cop's radar

A young boy dresses as a police officer to take part in the Halloween Horribles parade in Wilmington. (Courtesy photo)

Novemberfest on Nov. 15

WILMINGTON — Novemberfest is a day filled with community, fun and tradition! This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, at Villanova Hall, located next to St. Thomas Church on Middlesex Avenue.

Each year we bring together a wide variety of vendors, exciting raffles and activities for all ages. Last year's event featured over 50 raffle baskets, a high stakes 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and even a treasure chest filled with gently used items for sale.

New this year, they're going to expand with a family fest area in the lower level of St. Thomas Church, where children can enjoy games, activities, and special surprises.

Every part of Novemberfest helps support the Parish of the Transfiguration, making it a joyful day bringing our community together.

Help Wanted

INDEPENDENT WRITING POSITION

Part time writing position available covering local government, feature articles, some evening assignments. Additional writing assignments possible.

Willing to train.
Some remote coverage available.
E-mail resume, interest, and/or writing sample to:
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Help Wanted

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43 Manning Rd.
Billerica, MA 01821

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NortheasternDevelopment.com

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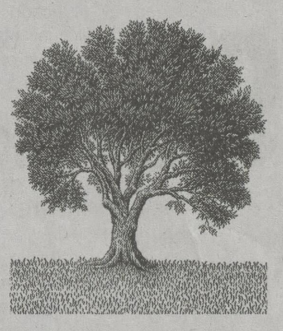

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Board to explore all options regarding Hero Act

MEETING FROM PAGE A1W

the vote was "outside the scope of Town Meeting" and would therefore not be legally binding. Instead, it would be an advisory vote.

In reference to the vote's symbolic nature, member Jacob Gearwar mentioned Burlington Town Meeting's recent vote to condemn the ICE facility on District Avenue. The town manager agreed that "this would be, in effect, that type of vote."

Article 2's vote will decide if $615,000 will be allocated to renovate the former Buzzell Senior Center. Unlike Article 1, this vote is within Town Meeting's jurisdiction as fund allocation falls wholly under their purview. This makes Article 2 a legally binding vote.

Following a question from DePalma, the town manager reiterated that both articles must be voted on, regardless of the turnout of the first vote. Additionally, the articles must be voted on as they are written.

Four motions were brought to a vote by the board, with all four passing unanimously.

First was a board to consider item regarding a collective bargaining agreement between Wilmington and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 101 Public Safety Dispatch Union extending to June 2028.

Next was a request from the Parish of Transfiguration to place signage at Town Hall for their Novemberfest Fundraiser.

The board also voted to grant two Farmers Market Winery Licenses for the 2025 Wilmington Winter Farmers Market. The licenses went to Blisspoint Meadery and Aaronap Cellars LLC.

Community members were then given the opportunity to bring any comments they had before the board. Chair Frank West acknowledged that comments and questions would be limited to five minutes.

The first question came from resident Rob Fasulo. He inquired as to whether the Buzzell building would be demolished before the scheduled Town Meeting. The board assured him that the building would not be touched before then.

Resident Suzanne Sullivan raised questions about Article 1's legality as well as the legal recommendations the board received from town counsel. The town manager explained that the legal recommendations fall under attorney-client privilege, but that the council will be present at the Town Meeting if she, or any member of the public, has questions for them.

Sullivan stated that she felt the board was "breaking the public trust" by not sharing the legal opinions they received. The town manager went on to inform Sullivan of her rights and the legal recourse she may take if she so chooses.

The final resident to comment, Jim DeFeo, had questions pertaining to the Heroes Act.

DeFeo told the board that the cut-off date for tax abatements given from the Heroes Act is April 1, 2025. However, the next Town Meeting is not until May 2, 2025 and the Act is yet to be adopted in the Town of Wilmington. According to DeFeo, this means that veterans in the community will lose out on three years of abatements made available through the Act.

He went on to ask if the board could adopt the act themselves, but the town manager said that it could only be done through Town Meeting but that "if I could put it in front of the board, I promise you I would."

While the Act was adopted in Boston by their City Council, it was noted that cities and towns are different governmentally, and so this path was not an option for the town.

After learning the Act could be adopted through a special Town Meeting, DeFeo expressed confidence in his ability to garner the requisite 200 signatures. Although, having heard earlier in the meeting what the cost of a special Town Meeting is, he posited that the Act's tax abatement cut-off date could be extended until after the planned Town Meeting in May and the abatements made retroactive.

The board promised it would look into whether this was possible and would have an answer by the next Select Board meeting.

Caira was less sure of their ability to make the abatements retroactive, but other members assured him all options would be explored, including speaking to their state senator.

DeFeo repeated that, should an extension of the cut-off date be impossible, he will have the signatures required for the special Town Meeting.

West then made two short announcements.

First, West thanked the Sarah Carter Lecture Fund for the event they put on with Lenny Zarcone on Oct. 24. Second, he mentioned his and DePalma's visit to the Andover/Wimington line for the Border Perambulation Event.

Members from the Select Boards of Wilmington and Andover were in attendance to walk along the border of the two towns.

As a final announcement, Maselli reminded everyone that this Friday is Halloween.

"Be safe, drive safe. There's going to be a lot of little ones out there. Just be careful."

To close out the meeting, a Salute to Service was made to Airman First Class Leonard Whitford.

Whitford was a decorated soldier, earning such commendations as the National Defense Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal.

The Select Board will meet next on Nov. 10.

More pictures from the Library's Monster Mash Halloween Bash

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